

How Blair plans to keep control of 418-seat juggernaut

BLAIR presidency or command premiership? After less than a week, rumblings can already be heard in Whitehall about the activist and highly political style of the new Government. Tony Blair wants 10 Downing Street to take much more of a lead than in the past, both in the driving force and co-ordinator of the Government's programme.

The convention has been that a Prime Minister can prod and push, and ultimately dismiss Cabinet ministers, but they are responsible for running their own departments. The Blair view is that this has too often produced a lack of direction and cohesion, with ministerial ini-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

tatives often clashing with other. Hence, there is a need for a closer co-ordination both of ministers' day-to-day actions and of strategy. Baroness Thatcher often had the same desire to direct and chivvy because of impatience with her ministers. But she generally worked informally through ad hoc groups. John Major attempted a more formal system of co-ordination via a team of ministers at the Cabinet Office, notably when Michael Heseltine was Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Blair is going further in transferring the centralised struc-

ture which he used in Opposition to Government — in part, by moving over most of his personal staff to No 10 in a much-expanded team of advisers. These are full of praise for the Civil Service handling of the transition. Under Whitehall rules, special advisers are not allowed to give orders to civil servants and Sir Robin Butler has been keen to see that the demarcation line with career civil servants should be preserved.

A formal exception has been made for Alastair Campbell as chief press secretary. The convention that

the Prime Minister's principal private secretary is a career civil servant will be breached when Jonathan Powell takes over from Alex Allan who is becoming Britain's High Commissioner in Australia this summer — though Harold Macmillan employed his friend John Wyndham as a joint private secretary.

Downing Street will now closely co-ordinate policy announcements and initiatives by departments. It also wants to ensure that the Government retains a clear strategic vision in the delivery of its programme. As Minister without Portfolio in the Cabinet Office, Peter Mandelson will in effect be

chief enforcer and co-ordinator. He will chair daily meetings on presentation.

The biggest — so far undisclosed — innovation is the creation of a strategy committee of the Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, and including the rest of the Big Four (John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook), Mr Mandelson and the Commons business managers, with Mr Powell and Mr Campbell attending. This is intended to pull together these threads and could in time reduce the importance of the full Cabinet.

Mr Blair also wants to avoid the fate of past Labour administrations in ensuring that the party does not

become a source of opposition to the Government. Mr Blair sought yesterday to remind his vast new army of its election on a new Labour programme when he addressed the remarkable gathering of the parliamentary party at Church House.

The aim is to avoid excessive euphoria in the party and retain a strategic focus. This is desirable. But under a cabinet system, the centre has never successfully controlled departments. Mr Blair and his allies cannot themselves ensure that the Government succeeds. That depends on 80-plus ministers.

PETER RIDDELL



Simon: fluent in seven languages

Labour woos City with post for BP chairman

BY JILL SHERMAN
AND OLIVER AUGUST

THE appointment of Sir David Simon as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe was seen as another attempt to show the City that Labour can work with business.

Sir David, 57, will work closely with Gordon Brown and Margaret Beckett to promote Labour's plans to complete the single market and encourage flexible labour markets across the EU.

Mr Blair regards Sir David "as the most impressive businessman he has met", according to sources at Downing Street. He will become a life peer and Treasury spokesman in the Lords, and will not be paid.

He will give up his work for BP but it is understood that he is happy not to receive a salary for his new post. "We are limited to the amount of paid appointments we can make," a government source said.

Sir David was born in London but spent part of his childhood in France. His father, Roger, was a fighter pilot with the Free French and an associate of General de Gaulle. When France fell to the Germans in 1940, de Gaulle came to London and plotted the recapture of France with the help of Sir David's father.

In 1945, the family followed de Gaulle back to liberated Paris but was soon dismayed at how the French treated the hero general. On hearing the news of de Gaulle's temporary retirement from politics in 1947, Roger Simon returned to London and vowed never again to set foot on French soil.

His son studied at Cambridge, from where he went straight to BP in 1961, rising to chairman in 1995. Sir David's first wife was from Norway and he learnt the language from her. He also speaks French, German, Dutch, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. His married again in 1992.

A sports lover, he has said the person he would most like to swap jobs with is Des Lynam. Asked what made him laugh the most, he replied: "John Cleese, Evelyn Waugh, and the Tottenham back four playing anywhere."

Sir David is a member of the European Competitiveness Advisory Group and a director of the Bank of England. He has been Businessman of the Year for the past two years.

Queen's Speech to signal ban on cigarette adverts

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is preparing to take on Britain's powerful tobacco lobby by banning cigarette advertising. Laws to prohibit tobacco advertising are expected to be signalled in Labour's first Queen's Speech next week.

At least a dozen Bills are likely to be included; these will cover legislation over the next 18 months but the priorities will be health, education, law and order and devolution.

There will be three education Bills, to repeal nursery school vouchers, phase out assisted school places, and to reform student loans and close failing state schools. There will also be a Crime and Disorder Bill and Bills for a Scottish referendum and Welsh Assembly. Separate legislation will be necessary on the national minimum wage — to be set by an economic commission — and to allow the Bank of England to set interest rates.

The Prime Minister is still considering whether to bring in an early Bill to remove the voting rights of hereditary peers or whether to delay the move for a later session. The Queen's Speech will also signal changes to regulate party funding if these are approved by the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Labour's manifesto commits the party to banning tobacco advertising but the policy has been hardly mentioned since Mr Blair became Labour leader. Yesterday, however, Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, signalled that there would be early action. In a speech to the World Health Assembly in Geneva, delivered on her behalf by the deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jeremy Merton, she said: "Smoking is the greatest single cause of preventable illness and death in the UK. Over the coming weeks the Government will be looking at ways of introducing an effective ban on tobacco advertising."

The Finance Bill will also incorporate any other fiscal changes that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, may decide to make in the Budget, such as closing of tax loopholes for millionaires. Legislation will also be needed for Mr Brown's £3 billion welfare-to-work programme to get 250,000 youth into jobs.

The Queen's Speech will include Home Secretary Jack Straw's Crime and Disorder Bill to clamp down on juvenile offenders and introduce curfews for ten-year-olds.

The legislation will encompass sweeping reforms of the youth justice system including fast-track punishment for persistent offenders: new powers to deal with nuisance neighbours; and a new crime of racial harassment.

Legislation will also be needed to enable £1 billion of National Lottery money to be spent on health and education. A separate Health Bill may be introduced to reform the internal market in the NHS.

The party has also promised a Freedom of Information Act and to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, but these measures may not all be in a first Queen's Speech.

No mistaking the gladness and rejoicing. Evermore? Time will tell.

confident they were. The Prime Minister spoke like a headmaster exhorting new pupils to uphold the highest standards — and never to eat on buses in uniform.

Around the ceiling a huge, devotional frieze proclaimed in gold leaf: "Holy is the true light and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of conflict ... His conflict over, Mr Blair looked radiant. The parliamentary Labour party looked passing wonderful. I glanced around Church House. ... wherein they rejoice with gladness, evermore."

No mistaking the gladness and rejoicing. Evermore?

Continued from page 1

but his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.

Blair looked relaxed. He stared around the hall. What a spectacle! The scene resembled a high-school dance. Most of the girls sat together in clumps. The boys laughed extra loud, to show how

Continued from page 1

out his curtain-raiser for the Real Thing. "I don't want to say some of the surprising constituencies we won in" roared the greater butcher of Tory Government, and English prose.

The doors opened and in strode the Prime Minister, to roars of applause. Two doorkeepers must have been ready behind the doors, one assigned to each, to open both in a synchronised movement.</



WPC hit by IRA sniper is back home

By NICHOLAS WATT

ALICE COLLINS, the police constable gravely injured after being shot in the back by an IRA sniper in Londonderry last month, was discharged from hospital yesterday.

Friends welcomed Mrs Collins, 46, as she returned to her home with her husband and three children. She underwent six hours of emergency surgery after the shooting on April 10.

Dr James McHaffey, the Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, who was a regular visitor to Mrs Collins's bedside at the Altnagelvin Hospital, said: "Mrs Collins is a woman of great and wonderful courage. She was determined to get better and she developed a wonderful spirit in hospital."

As Mrs Collins returned home yesterday, police in Londonderry arrested three men in connection with the shooting.

IRA supporters sent a chilling warning on Tuesday night when they hijacked a van in Belfast and forced the driver to take it to Waterfront Hall, where the Prince of Wales was guest of honour at a gala concert. Soldiers carried out controlled explosions, but no bomb was found.

Girls' Own adventure ends after twins survive sea and sharks

Stowaway sisters hid for two months in tiny rope store

FROM BELINDA SCOTT
IN CAIRNS AND
ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY



Joanne Ingham: lived on crabs and rainwater

Teenage stowaways Sarah and Joanne Ingham hid for two months in a tiny store room on a container ship sailing from New Zealand to Singapore. The 18-year-old twins, wanted for minor offences at home, are believed to have been smuggled on board by crewmen they had befriended in Auckland.

Supplies of food and drink kept them safe in their temporary refuge, used to store ropes, throughout the voyage to Singapore. But the secret passengers were discovered a day after the vessel left on the return voyage.

The captain ordered the girls to be kept locked in the cook's quarters. They were last seen at 10.30pm on Saturday, April 19, with a crewman, Jaafar bin Mohamed Zan. A few hours later the three jumped from the ship off the Australian coast between Lockhart River and Princess Charlotte Bay. They were reported missing the next day.

The girls did not live at home and had been working in Nelson, about four hours' drive from Christchurch, until their disappearance. They did some silly things and had some funny ideas on things, but they were not bad people and weren't criminals," Mr Ingham said.

their way to civilisation but became lost in the bush.

One report said that they had stumbled across a group of Aborigines who took them to the nearest town, Coen, about 50 miles away.

The three appeared reluctant to return. The Malaysian seaman had to be physically detained by an official from the Aboriginal community to prevent him escaping into the bush.

The girls, whose parents emigrated from Leeds to New Zealand in 1971, were being treated for severe sunburn yesterday and held under arrest. They are to be deported to New Zealand.

Sergeant John Moran said: "We are still trying to get to the bottom of all this, but it's a quite astonishing story of survival. It's amazing they didn't get eaten by a shark."

The twins' parents, Bernard and Jeanette, live in Kaiapoi, north of Christchurch. Mr Ingham, 53, said he had always been convinced that the twins were alive because they were so "independent and strong-willed".

"We still love them and we want them back," Mrs Ingham, also 53, said. Last night the couple were still waiting to talk to their daughters, who were undergoing treatment for sunburn and exposure at Cairns Hospital. Police and immigration officials were waiting to question the sisters further.

The girls did not live at home and had been working in Nelson, about four hours' drive from Christchurch, until their disappearance. They did some silly things and had some funny ideas on things, but they were not bad people and weren't criminals," Mr Ingham said.



Sarah Ingham in Cairns yesterday after being found in the bush by Aborigines

Panorama put to flight by Essex girls

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PANORAMA, the BBC's flagship current affairs programme, is being moved from the prime-time slot it has occupied for 12 years to make way for the popular sitcom *Birds of a Feather*.

In an effort to "beef up" Monday night viewing, the BBC has decided to put a mass appeal show in the 9.30pm slot, directly after the *Nine O'Clock News*, to compete with ITV drama.

The comedy series, which focuses on the lives of two Essex girls Sharon and Tracey and stars Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson, is one of the most successful light entertainment shows on television.

Panorama, which has run since 1983, will start half an hour later at 10pm from June 2 to compete with ITV's *News at Ten*.

Programmers denied that the move was a denunciation of *Panorama* or that it was losing viewers but was merely to "strengthen the overall mix" of the Monday night schedule. The programme last year averaged 4.3 million viewers a week and achieved a 20 per cent audience share.

Mark Thompson, controller of BBC2 and acting controller of BBC1, said: "We want to strengthen and broaden BBC1's Monday night line-up. *Panorama* has a well-earned reputation for powerful and highly relevant journalism. Both it and the *Nine O'Clock News* should benefit from these changes."

Steve Hewlett, editor of *Panorama*, said: "Other factual programmes have done well when they have moved to this time. I see it as an opportunity for *Panorama* to reach a bigger share of the audience, many of whom currently switch over to watch us at 10pm having missed most of the programme."

Benn case man 'given choice of bribe or death'

By RICHARD DUCE

RAYMOND SULLIVAN was offered the choice of accepting £100,000 to drop assault charges against the boxer Nigel Benn or becoming the target of a contract killer, a jury was told yesterday.

Mr Sullivan, a former close friend of the boxer, said the offer was made two weeks before Mr Benn's trial began on Tuesday at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court.

Mr Sullivan, 33, from east London, is the main prosecution witness against Mr Benn, who is alleged to have carried out an unprovoked attack on him with a glass ashtray at a Mayfair nightclub in September. Mr Sullivan needed 105 stitches in his nose, which he described as being split open "like a pair of curtains".

Trevor Burke, the defence, asked Mr Sullivan if he had let it be known that he was prepared to drop charges against the boxer if he was paid £100,000. Mr Sullivan, who runs a ticket sales business, told the jury that the claim was ridiculous. He said: "Someone suggested to me I could get £100,000 if I were to drop the charges. If not, a person would take a contract out on my life."

He denied trying to frame Mr Benn for the attack by persuading witnesses to come forward once he had failed in a civil action to claim £50,000 damages from Mr Benn for his injuries.

Mr Sullivan said he had known Mr Benn for ten years and the pair had once been "like brothers". But they fell out after Mr Benn discovered Mr Sullivan had tried to "chat up" the boxer's girlfriend. "He hated me, I suppose," said Mr

Sullivan. Mr Burke suggested the men had fallen out because Mr Sullivan was convicted of drug dealing and Mr Benn did not approve.

The court was told that Mr Sullivan had informed police of the death threat and that Mr Benn had been questioned about the alleged £20,000 contract. Mr Sullivan denied he had made up a version of events at Legends Night Club in an attempt to extract money from Mr Benn as he prepared for a world title fight last November.

Under cross-examination from Trevor Burke, for Mr Benn, Mr Sullivan said he arranged for photographs of his injuries to be taken by the surgeon who stitched his nose. Through an agent, Mr Sullivan sold the photographs for £10,000 to *The Sun*, which carried a front page article with the headline "Benn did this to me".

Mr Sullivan said: "All I wanted to do was get a picture in the paper because everyone was denying it [the assault]. I just wanted people to know what he had done to me. I was frightened. Had he won [the world title fight], the implications would have been magnified."

Mr Sullivan admitted that, although he told police that he had not seen who attacked him, he had initiated a civil action against Mr Benn in an attempt to get £50,000 compensation for his injuries.

Mr Benn from Beckenham, Kent, denies wounding Mr Sullivan with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He also denies a lesser alternative charge of unlawful wounding. The case continues today.

Detention for 17st boy who led rape of tourist

By LIN JENKINS

THE 17-STONE ringleader of a teenage gang that raped an Austrian tourist and threw her into a canal to drown after an hour-long attack was sentenced to 12 years detention yesterday.

Adrian Henry, 14, was the last of seven gang members to be jailed for the attack on the banks of a canal in King's Cross, London. Judge Verney, the Recorder of London, told Henry that he had shown his victim no mercy and he could expect none to be shown to him.

After sentencing, Detective Sergeant Keith Manktelow, who led the inquiry, said he recognised the danger Henry posed. "That boy is going to be a serial something," he said.

It emerged that Henry had been beyond the control of his mother and social workers and had broken curfew from a children's home on the night of the attack.

Henry, who is 5ft 2in and called Congo by gang members, showed no emotion as he was sentenced at the Old Bailey. He sauntered casually from the court as he began his journey to Glenthorne Young Offenders' Institute.

The judge was particularly worried that Henry, who had changed his plea to guilty only as the trial was due to start, had no realisation of the awfulness of what he had done but maintained the first act of intercourse was with consent. "Having heard her evidence I am absolutely certain that what you did was rape and that you were the first to do it."

He said Henry chanted: "Now the party is going to start," as the 32-year-old mother-of-two was dragged to a canal side, lifted up and stripped. "How you can possibly be

fire to his room. His mother, a former nursery nurse, lost control of him after her marriage to a rail worker collapsed eight years ago and she developed multiple sclerosis. Henry was once a promising basketball player but now, in the view of police and social workers, he was out of control and destined for a life in the penal system.

The other gang members were sentenced on April 18 to between 10 and 12 years for their part in the attack. Six pleaded guilty and one, the youngest, was convicted after a trial in which the victim travelled to England to give evidence.

Her former husband was in court yesterday for the sentencing. He has blamed his reaction to the rape for their divorce although his wife said it was the final straw in their collapse of their relationship.

Michael Cogan, for the defence, said Henry lived in a fantasy world, struggling to live up to the image created by his large size at such a young age. He said he idolised the father who had left his mother eight years ago.

The judge ordered that Henry remain under supervision for the whole period of the sentence. He also lifted an order banning identification of two of the three those previously sentenced because a pending trial for robbing a tourist at knifepoint was not going to continue. The third youth still faced other charges.

They were Calivine Angol, 18, the eldest of the gang, who had been sentenced to 11 years.

The other was Timothy Davies, 17, who lived in Clerkenwell with his Venezuelan mother and sister. He was sentenced to 11 years.

Dr Whittington said Miss Haynes had demonstrated a long and clear intention to take here own life in certain circumstances. "She was determined to maintain her standards but this was becoming too much for her."

But people who believed they could prevent treatment by putting notices around themselves were wrong.

The Griffins club dates back to the turn of the century. Downing has a strong reputation as a sporting college and by tradition the election to membership involved having achieved some sporting success, usually at rugby, rowing or football. But in recent years, membership, while essentially sporting, has become wider.

Some students were said to have behaved properly at the hotel but the Downing College disciplinary committee later interviewed the 19 undergraduates present and punished them all.

Suicide woman's threat to rescuers

By TIM JONES

A FORMER headmistress who killed herself because of failing health left a note threatening to sue anyone who successfully revived her.

Gerrtrude Haynes, 81, an inquest was told, hung the note around her neck before taking an overdose of sleeping pills and placing a bag over her head. But in spite of her final request, Eugene Clancy, a paramedic, battled in vain to save her life. His failed attempt to resuscitate Miss Haynes was praised by Dr Richard Whittington, the Birmingham city coroner.

He said such notices should not prevent medical staff seeking to revive people who had attempted suicide.

Miss Haynes, whose body was found at her bungalow in Bourneville, had always promised to take her own life if her health began to fail, the inquest was told. A copy of *The Final Exit*, which details ways in which people can end their lives, was found in her home.

Her friend Deirdre Farthing, said Miss Haynes had become frustrated at getting tired. "She made no secret of wanting to end her life if her health failed." But Miss Haynes had remained active and kept a clean, well-ordered house and enjoyed gardening. Before her death, Miss Haynes was a well-known figure at the local museum, where her books on growing up in Birmingham, written as *Lita Haynes*, were sold.

Dr Whittington said Miss Haynes had demonstrated a long and clear intention to take here own life in certain circumstances. "She was determined to maintain her standards but this was becoming too much for her."

But people who believed they could prevent treatment by putting notices around themselves were wrong.

After the verdict of suicide, Meridith MacArdaile, of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, said that seriously ill people had the right to reject medicines designed simply to keep them alive.

Steve Evans, of the West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "If a conscious person makes a specific request not to have medical assistance then we have to acknowledge that request. But if someone is unconscious then the paramedics will do what they are trained to do and save lives."

Cambridge club disbanded after drunken spree

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A COLLEGE club at Cambridge University has been disbanded in disgrace after its annual dinner descended into drunken excess.

The all-male Griffins club, which was founded to celebrate sporting excellence, may be allowed to re-form only if women are admitted to membership, to help curb further "blokey" excesses.

The club for sportsmen at Downing College was banned after members were thrown out of the Royal Cambridge Hotel. They were accused of

harassing female staff, throwing food, and vomiting on the table after drinking bottles of wine at one go.

One postgraduate was sent down, a student was rusticated for a year, and the other members have been asked to leave their rooms in the college.

Professor David King, Master of the college, said: "The gentlemen-only concept dates back from a time when all-male colleges existed, but I feel that the club should reflect the present situation. The Griffins not only excluded women, they've excluded sportmen of their own choosing."

Jon Dymond, student president of Downing College, said: "It will be re-

established to fulfil the original spirit of the Griffins which was to recognise sporting excellence. The idea is to get away from this blokey, beer-swilling image and put it back the way it was supposed to be. That sort of behaviour was unacceptable to the college."

Mr Dymond, who is the captain of another college drinking society, blamed the presence of old boys for bad behaviour. "The punishments were severe but those responsible did a lot of damage," he said.

Some students were said to have behaved properly at the hotel but the Downing College disciplinary committee later interviewed the 19 undergraduates present and punished them all.

dent newspaper, that one member of staff had to have his suit replaced.

The Griffins club dates back to the turn of the century. Downing has a strong reputation as a sporting college and by tradition the election to membership involved having achieved some sporting success, usually at rugby, rowing or football. But in recent years, membership, while essentially sporting, has become wider.

Some students were said to have behaved properly at the hotel but the Downing College disciplinary committee later interviewed the 19 undergraduates present and punished them all.

*

Haliborange has always tasted great.

Now, each high strength tablet makes a fizzy drink that holds as much Vitamin C as twenty freshly squeezed oranges.

Helping you to stay fit and replace the Vitamin C lost through colds and flu.

In either ruby orange or lemon, you'll find it's equally delicious. Enjoy.

HALIBORANGE

High-tech angling is banned as too fishy

By STEWART TENDLER AND AUDREY MAGEE

ANGLERS have been banned from using high-tech fish-finders after a competitor in a fishing match was discovered sitting on a river bank with a miniature echo-sounder by his side.

Roger Mortimer netted 374 roach, tench and perch using the device, which dangled from a pole into the water in front of his seat. A display by his side alerted him to the movements of quarry in the River Glen in Lincolnshire and Mr Mortimer cast his bait among them.

The technique won him fourth place and £60 in a local competition, but the National Angling Federation and the *Angling Times*, which run the majority of coarse fishing competitions in this country, have since banned such devices.

The National Park in Killarney, Co Kerry, has also banned the equipment for unfairly tracking down half a million brown trout and salmon in three lakes. Fishing experts forecast that many other stillwater owners in Britain will follow suit, amid concern that fish stocks will be rapidly depleted if the fish-finding equipment becomes more popular.

The best equipment, which costs more than £350, can report not only the presence of fish but their depth and weight. Specimen hunters searching for wild brown

trout in the deep Scottish lochs have used the fish-finders to catch monsters of more than 19lb.

In Ireland, Chris Flynn, assistant director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service said that the ban on fish-finders was necessary to protect the lakes from overfishing. He said: "Fishermen have to compete equally with nature if the fish are going to last."

Local fishermen using Lough Leane, Muckross Lake and the Upper Lake in the park welcomed the ban on fish-finders. Michael Hegarty, vice-chairman of Lough Leane Anglers, said: "There is no thrill in their methods, which are very unfair. Most of us go out purely for relaxation and if we catch a few trout, it's a bonus."

However, Gowen & Bradshaw, a Galway company supplying fish-finders to salmon and trout fishermen in the west of Ireland, claimed that the device did little to improve the catch. A spokesman said it helped fishermen to understand the terrain and learn about fish. "It is like having a compass on a hill — it helps you but it won't get you there. You still have to get the fish to open their mouths."

"How are you going to do that with a fish-finder? Lean out the boat and say 'Aah? You still have to do all the hard work."



Sheep in the snow at Hebden Bridge, west Yorkshire, search for better grazing yesterday.

Farmers said that lambs could be at risk if the cold and snow continued (Michael Hornsby writes). After April's warmth and last week's heat, the cold snap has wrecked hopes of a bumper strawberry crop and blasted

plants and flowers lured into early bloom. Sub-zero temperatures were recorded in central and southern England on Tuesday night after sleet that day. The London Weather Centre received reports of brief snow flurries. A month

ago, strawberry-growers were forecasting that production would be 40 per cent up on last year. Yesterday, Michael Alley, of the National Summer Fruits Association, said: "The main strawberry crop has been clovered. The

later-planted crops should be OK, provided it warms up, but this could still mean we will lose 10 to 15 per cent." Trevor Sims, an adviser at Wisley, the Surrey garden run by the Royal Horticultural Society, said: "Plums are look-

ing dodgy. The crop came into flower early and a lot of the fruit was killed off by the frost in late April. Frost and freezing nights are not particularly uncommon in May, but they can cause a lot of damage when combined with an early spring which brings plants into early bloom."

Forecast, page 24

Winter's return hits strawberry crop



Saturday in
THE TIMES

Ginny
Dougary on
novelist Fay
Weldon as
breadwinner
for a
'strange'
family of
seven
children
weekend



TONS OF STORAGE SPACE.

An Iomega Zip™ drive gives you the space and speed you need, with 100Mb disks available. Perfect for all your work, graphics, Internet and multimedia stuff.



COMPLETE PORTABILITY.

An Iomega Zip™ drive and Zip disks are small, lightweight, and extremely rugged. Which means you can take stuff home, on the road, or anywhere else you need to go.

HOW TO HOLD 70 floppy disks IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND



FAST, EASY BACKUP.

The Zip™ drive is quick and easy to install on your PC or Mac. It simply plugs into the back of your computer — Just like your printer. It's also a lifesaver if your hard drive crashes. It rapidly makes extra copies of your files, applications and other important stuff.

For more information, call:

0800 413099

Or see us at:

www.iomega.com

Combined therapy may kill Aids virus

By IAN MURRAY,
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW treatments for human immunodeficiency virus may make it possible to cure patients within three years, scientists have said.

Although nobody has received the new treatments for long enough to show that HIV can be eradicated, researchers in America forecast that it should be possible.

So far drugs have been successful only in delaying the progression from HIV to Aids by about eight years. However, new therapies that rely on combinations of the more powerful drugs are proving successful in clearing out the virus, according to a team from the Aaron Diamond Research Center at Rockefeller University, New York.

In a letter to *Nature*, they report on a trial in which the HIV concentration in the patient's blood dropped by 99 per cent. That was followed by a second phase as the virus invaded the cells and multiplied but the number of infected cells continued to fall.

Flowers change genes for Chelsea

By MICHAEL HORNSBY,
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

GENETICALLY modified plants will be on display for the first time at this year's Chelsea Flower Show, although they will look no different from those with a more natural background.

The plants will contain "marker genes" — foreign DNA inserted into the plants to enable scientists to test whether the process of gene transfer is actually working.

Entitled Mendel's Garden: Past, Present and Future, the display is being exhibited by the John Innes Centre in Norwich, and named after Gregor Mendel, the Austrian monk whose experiments with peas in the 1860s revealed the basic laws of genetic inheritance.

Ray Mathias, head of science communication and education at the institute, said: "We see the exhibit as a way of informing a wider audience about the science and what progress is being made."

Affordable Healthcare

FREEPHONE QUOTING REF B17/DL17

0500 66 99 66

Lifetime from
HealthCareLegal &
General

Tony, look
at the
economy.

up to 30% cheaper motor insurance
call now for a quote

0800 11 22 33

help

For your nearest Stockist visit [Tesco.com](http://www.tesco.com)

Byte

Currys

Dixons

GAME

JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP

PC WORLD

STAPLES

TEMPO

BECAUSE IT'S YOUR STUFF.



iomega

£1,199*

(£1,020.43 ex. VAT)



*The Macintosh Performa 5400: 160MHz PowerPC 603e processor, 16MB RAM, 1.6GB hard disk drive, 16-bit stereo surround sound, built-in 15-inch/32,000 colour display, 8x CD-ROM drive and 28.8 fax/modem. Plus the following software: ClarisWorks, the Apple Internet Connection Kit, Apple Telecom, Performa ClickArt, At Ease, MacLink Plus, HyperCard Player, Acrobat Reader, Sammy's Science House, Thinkin' Things, the Ultimate Human Body, the Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, the Best of European Soccer, Power Pete, Full Throttle, Descent and the Apple Magic Collection by Disney Interactive.

Always read the small print, before you buy.

Some computer manufacturers offer you "the latest technology" at unbeatable prices; others include "hundreds of pounds worth of software" valued at more than the cost of the whole system. Unbelievable? We agree. And if you share our concerns, look no further than the Macintosh Performa™ range – now starting at just £1,199 (£1,020.43 ex VAT).*

As exhaustively illustrated above, the Macintosh Performa 5400 is not only a highly specified system, but it comes with a host of top-quality pre-installed software titles too. Once you've paid your money, all you have to do is take it out of the box, plug-in and switch-on. And because it's as easy-to-use as any other Macintosh computer, you can be sure that you'll be able to put it to work quickly – whether it's your first business machine or a welcome addition to the home.

And whilst we're on the subject of deals, make sure you ask your nearest stockist about special offers that are now available when you buy an equally honest Colour StyleWriter™ printer.

For details of a Macintosh Performa stockist near you, call the Apple Information Centre free on: 0800 234 800.


*Suggested retail price of the Macintosh Performa 5400 160MHz Macintosh 5400 at £1,199. Ex VAT pricing shown for business customers only. © May 1997, Apple Computer Inc. The Apple logo is a registered trade mark and Apple, Macintosh, Macintosh Performa and StyleWriter are trademarks of Apple Computer Inc. registered in the United States and other countries. All other trademarks are recognised as belonging to their respective patent companies.

Grandma: nature's unique design to protect the family

By IAN MURRAY



SCIENTISTS have realised what parents have always known: that grandmothers are indispensable to bringing up baby. From Queen Elizabeth the 'Queen Mother' to Grandma, the stout old lady immortalised by the cartoonist Giles, grandmothers have been viewed with a mixture of affection and trepidation. Now their true worth has been recognised by a gerontologist at Manchester University. Thomas Kirkwood suggests that a "grandmother effect" explains the ménage à trois, a condition unique to human beings.

Grandmothers are so essential to human society that natural selection supports women who stop having children of their own so they can become one, he told the Royal Society yesterday.

However, a similar evolutionary "grandfather effect" had not occurred, perhaps because women were always sure of their maternity while men could never be completely certain of their paternity, he said.

"Having children is risky and having a grandmother reduces the risk," Professor Kirkwood told a conference on ageing. "Grandmothers have experience and a valuable social role to play. At a certain point it becomes advantageous for a woman to

maximise the chances of her own children's survival by ceasing to run the increasing risk of having any more of her own, thus becoming available to help bring up her own grandchildren. This enhances the chances of her family survival."

The woman's pelvis prevented her child's brain growing fully until after birth, so the help and experience of the grandmother in bringing up the baby was crucial.

Professor Kirkwood said human beings lived longer than most other animals because of the way the brain had evolved to reduce perceived threats to life from the surrounding environment. In a similar way birds and bats

had relatively long lifespans because their ability to fly reduced their risks.

Aging was not inevitable, he said, but was a trade off for the ability to perpetuate the species by reproduction. Because humans had to expend some of the energy they absorbed in order to have children, they did not have enough left over to maintain the body indefinitely.

"Our genes back in the past evolved to regard our bodies as disposable," he said. The challenge for science was to find ways of improving the quality of life for the elderly so that they could enjoy old age without debilitating effects.

George Martin, of Washington State University in Seattle, said diet could prolong active life. Experiments on rats had shown that cutting their calorific intake by 40 per cent increased their life expectancy by a half.

However, genetic changes down the centuries had had a greater effect on extending the life span. Studies of fit elderly people were beginning to discover "successful ageing genes". There was also evidence that some genes which were successful in early life became dangerous in later life.

The genes which made a young man macho and capable of attracting women were the same genes responsible for the most virulent form of prostate cancer.

Civil War castle gains a victory for garden

SUDELEY Castle, in Gloucestershire, which dates from the 15th century, received the Garden of the Year award yesterday.

Sudeley was the home of Catherine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry VIII. She is buried in the chapel. Elizabeth I stayed there three times and Charles I slept there during the Civil War. In 1649 the castle was devastated by Cromwell.

The award, now in its thirteenth year, is given by Christie's and the Historic Houses Association to a garden recognised as outstanding for its horticultural and public interest. It was presented to Lady Ashcombe, who has run Sudeley since the death of her first husband in 1972, and to her son, Henry Dent-Brocklehurst. The presentation was by Christopher Balfour, chairman of Christie's Europe, and William Proby, of the association.

Mr Dent-Brocklehurst, a friend of Elizabeth Hurley and her boyfriend Hugh Grant, was accompanied yesterday by his girlfriend Lili Maltese, an American model. The couple plan to settle at Sudeley, where Mr Dent-Brocklehurst will run the estate.

The gardens, which combine ancient and modern, are largely the vision of two women — Emma Dent (née Brocklehurst), who inherited Sudeley with her husband in 1855, and Lady Ashcombe.



Henry Dent-Brocklehurst and his girlfriend Lili Maltese at Sudeley yesterday

Workers in £150,000 fiddles will not be fired

By PAUL WILKINSON

NEARLY 80 council workers caught fiddling almost £150,000 from their employer have escaped prosecution. One woman member of staff at Sheffield City Council claimed sickness and holiday pay while in prison. Many others fraudulently claimed housing benefit.

Sheffield is so short of cash that it is considering up to 100 redundancies. Peter Moore, the opposition Liberal Democrat leader on the Labour-controlled authority, said: "Honest council workers feel it is wrong that their jobs could be on the line through redundancy while people who have committed fraud keep their jobs."

An auditors' report disclosed in March that 79 workers were involved in the loss of more than £145,000. The council did not think the incidents were serious enough to warrant sacking, except in two cases involving £19,000 and £15,000.

Malcolm Newman, the city treasurer, said that the council had decided against prosecution on advice from the police, who had taken the view that if the frauds were not considered serious enough to warrant sacking, the Crown Prosecution Service was unlikely to prosecute.

A council spokesman said that a revised code of conduct for employees and a procedure for investigating theft, fraud and corruption had been implemented.

How to lose weight: stop fighting over women

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

STONE AGE man resembled a weightlifter and was 12 per cent heavier than the average modern human being, a study has shown.

A team at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore analysed 163 fossils and bones dating from more than two million years ago. The findings, published in *Nature*, indicate that ancient man underwent large changes in body bulk.

John Kapplien, of the University of Texas, also writing in *Nature*, says it is likely that ancient man had a bulkier body because so much of his time was spent competing for females.

Modern human beings weigh, on average, 58.7 kg. In the early Pleistocene, between 1.2 million and 1.8 million years ago, man's ancestors weighed about 61.8 kg. By the early late part of this period, between 100,000 and 150,000 years ago, he had an average weight of 67.7 kg.

The Baltimore study, led by Christopher Ruff, also studied fossils of Neanderthal man living between 36,000 and 75,000 years ago. He weighed an average of 76 kg, or nearly 30 per cent more than modern man.

Brain study shows why sleep keeps us sweet

By OUR TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS may have unravelled why new parents and other people deprived of sleep become irritable and anti-social. Parts of the brain that deal with emotion and mood need more rest and so feel the lack of sleep more keenly, researchers believe.

The findings, by a team at the University of Liege, Belgium, have come from a study in which the brains of eight men were scanned while they were asleep. The scanner showed blood flow to the various parts of the brain.

The researchers found that some areas remained reasonably active during sleep while others became almost dormant. The most inactive regions were in the orbitofrontal and the anterior cingulate parts of the cortex. These are areas linked to emotion, behaviour and social interaction. Previous studies have shown that when people are awake, these areas are among the most active.

Mirella Steriade, a neurophysiologist at Laval University, Quebec, says in *New Scientist*: "Perhaps those parts of the brain that are quite important during the waking state need more rest during sleep."

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth £750 in total.

Call Now!

Ask now for a quotation, even if your renewal date is months away and see how much you could save.

8000 414 525

Please quoting reference TMS705

Lines are open 8.30am - 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm on Saturday

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN HOME INSURANCE?

Low premiums for people over 50?

Saga Home Insurance is tailor made cover especially for people aged 50 and over, at surprisingly low premiums.

Price Promise?

Find another policy offering the same cover as Saga Home Insurance for a lower premium within 2 months of taking out your policy and we will refund the difference.

Experience?

Saga is at the forefront in providing a broad range of financial services specifically designed for people aged 50 and over.

Quick, efficient claims service?

With Saga Home Insurance, often one call is all it takes to settle a claim - in most cases with no complicated claim forms to complete.

Free services?

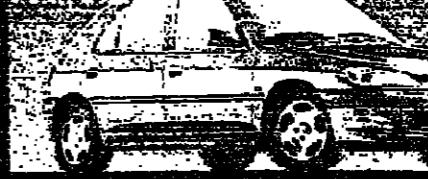
Saga Home Insurance offers free helpline for 24hr domestic help, legal advice and a glazing service. Also free in the first year are Frozen Food, Money and Credit Card Cover, worth

306

PEUGEOT

THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

THE NEW PEUGEOT 306. NOW WITH AIR-CONDITIONING.
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 0845 306 306.



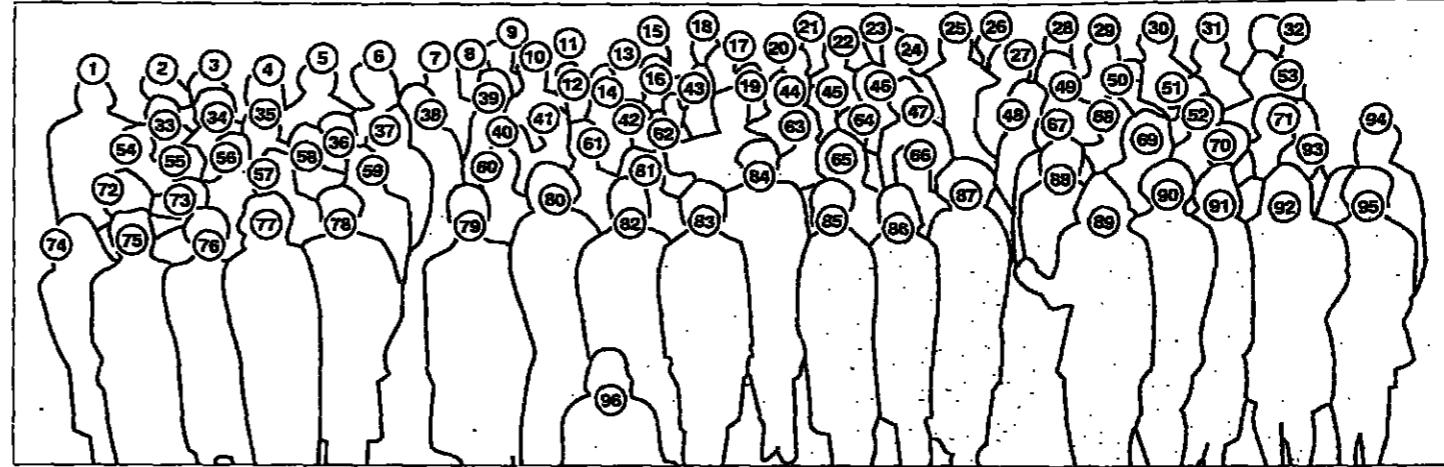


Who's who in Labour's new force

1 Christine McCafferty; 2 Helen Liddell; 3 Bridget Prentice; 4 Alice Mahon; 5 Judith Church; 6 Jackie Lawrence; 7 Joan Ruddock; 8 Ann Clywd; 9 Clare Curtis-Tansley; 10 Linda Clark; 11 Ann Coffey; 12 Maria Eagle; 13 Diane Abbott; 14 Joanne Hulme; 15 Hilary Armstrong; 16 Joan Waller; 17 Ruth Kelly; 18 Fiona MacTaggart; 19 Mo Mowlam; 20 Tessa Jowell; 21 Janet Anderson; 22 Helen Bilton; 23 Jane Kennedy; 24 Linda Gilroy; 25 Debra Sheldene; 26 Valerie Dwyer; 27 Betty Williams; 28 Tess Kingham; 29 Gwyneth Dunwoody; 30 Lyn Golding; 31 Rosa Winterbottom; 32 Ann Cryer; 33 Ann Keen; 34 Audrey Wise; 35 Yvette Cooper; 36 Diana Organ; 37 Candy McGuire; 38 Joyce Cuthbert; 39 Angela Eagle; 40 Angela Smith; 41 Eileen Gordon; 42 Christine Butler; 43 Oona King; 44 Harriet Harman; 45 Barbara McDonagh; 46 Louise Ellman; 47 Siobhan McDonagh; 48 Sylvia Heal; 49 Karen Buck; 50 Laura Moffat; 51 Rosemary McKenna; 52 Maria Fife; 53 Siobhan Morris; 54 Jean Curson; 55 Merle Johnson; 56 Joan Ryan; 57 Julia Drown; 58 Phyllis Starkey; 59 Helen Jones; 60 Helen Southworth; 61 Geraldine Smith; 62 Hazel Blears; 63 Fiona Jones; 64 Margaret Moran; 65 Janet Dean; 66 Kali Mountford; 67 Dan Taylor; 68 Julia Hobbs; 69 Linda Jackson; 70 Sandra Osborne; 71 Anne Beagle; 72 Jenny Jones; 73 Rachel Squire; 74 Barbara Follett; 75 Dawn Primarolo; 76 Patricia Hewitt; 77 Caroline Flint; 78 Jacqui Smith; 79 Gisela Stuart.

80 Jane Griffiths; 81 Anne Campbell; 82 Linda Petheram; 83 Margaret Beckett; 84 Ann Taylor; 85 Charlotte Atkins; 86 Sally Keeble; 87 Gillian Merson; 88 Elizabeth Blackman; 89 Steven Meacher; 90 Baroness Hayman; 91 Helen Jackson; 92 Clifton Ward; 93 Sandra Osborne; 94 Margaret Hodge; 95 Lorna Fitzsimons; 96 Anne Begg.

The following Labour women MPs were absent: Kate Hoey; Clare Short; Glenda Jackson; Lynne Jones; Julie Morgan.



Dixons DEAL 97

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RANGE OF ACCESSORIES

PLUS SAVE UP TO 50%

MATSUI IR100
INFRA-RED CORDLESS HEADPHONES

- 7 metre range.
 - Volume control.
 - Ideal for private listening.
- Was £59.99.

Dixons Deal 97

£39.99



PRICE - WE CAN'T BEATEN

One visit, and you'll find out why.

- ✓ RANGE - BRITAIN'S BIGGEST No-one stocks more accessories.
- ✓ LATEST TECHNOLOGY If it's new, we've got it. Come and see it now.
- ✓ ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST We'll help you get the best results.
- ✓ EVERYTHING YOU NEED All the accessories to make the most of the latest technology.

BATTERIES

VARTA ALKALINE 'AA' SIZE BATTERIES 10-PACK

Full alkaline power. Total Separate Selling Price £0.25.

Dixons Deal 97

£4.99

AUDIO TAPE

SONY EP90 AUDIO TAPE 10-PACK

16 hours recording time. Total Separate Selling Price £12.

Dixons Deal 97

£5.99

FILM

Dixons 24 EXPOSURE 100-ISO 3-PACK

Total Separate Selling Price £9.

Dixons Deal 97

£4.49

VIDEO TAPE

MGM E180 VIDEO TAPE 4-PACK

Total Separate Selling Price £15.

Dixons Deal 97

£6.99



SANYO PH200
CLOSED BACK STEREO HEADPHONES

- Soft cushioned earpads.
 - 3 metre cord. • Lightweight.
- Was £24.99.

Dixons Deal 97

£9.99



IF YOU CAN'T GET TO YOUR
NEAREST DIXONS
JUST ORDER BY PHONE!

0500 50 40 30

Dixons
There's a Great Deal going on

Blair salutes 101 women

BY JAMES LANDALE
AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

TONY BLAIR showed off his new army of women MPs yesterday outside Church House in Westminster after speaking to them and their male colleagues at the first meeting of the new Parliamentary Labour Party.

In all 96 of Labour's 101 women MPs posed for a historic photograph with the Prime Minister.

The Tories have just 13 women on the Opposition benches. But they and women from other parties bring the total in the Commons to 120.

compared with 63 in the last Parliament. They comprise 18 per cent of the 659 MPs.

Many of the Labour women benefited from the party's women-only shortlists policy before it was ruled illegal a 18 months ago. But many others have been selected since then entirely on their own merits.

The new influx of women hope to bring a new consensual style of politics to Westminster, which they see as still being dominated by a male, confrontational approach.

While congratulating Betty Boothroyd on her re-election as Speaker, Mr Blair said: "I am delighted that the lead that

'The Novel of the Century,
... but which century?'

Iain Sinclair, *Kaleidoscope*

**THOMAS
PYNCHON**

**Mason
&
Dixon**

THE NEW NOVEL

OUT NOW IN JONATHAN CAPE HARDBACK

MAJOR
**FREE
WORTH £
A MAJOR**

**Diesels and C
Free re-test if
NOT can be t**

**REAR SI
AN
TAILPIPE E**

**FROM ONLY
£12**

**■ FREE
EXHAUSTS TO F
OF MAKES
■ 2 YEAR G**

**£12.99
£19.99
£24.99**

**HOW TO
OF**

Shephard joins Lilley's campaign as the battle to succeed Major gathers momentum

Tycoon who saved Tories backs Hague for leader

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE millionaire carpet tycoon who saved the Conservative Party from financial ruin was identified last night as a key backer of William Hague's leadership campaign.

Lord Harris of Peckham is regarded as the best fundraiser the Tories have had, having been credited with wiping out a £16 million deficit in less than three years. It is not clear how much support he has pledged to Mr Hague, but each of the six leadership bids is expected to cost more than £10,000 in rent, office, and telephone calls for the six-week duration.

Lord Harris has told friends he has no intention of publicly endorsing any of the candidates.

Six telephone lines were installed yesterday in Mr Hague's campaign headquarters in the private St James's office of the Tory MP Jonathan Sargeant, one of his principal rivals for the leadership, five next door.

Peter Lilley's campaign was boosted yesterday by being backed by Gillian Shephard, former Education and Employment Secretary, who at one stage was spoken of as a candidate. She would be his deputy leader, a partnership



Peter Lilley, whose candidacy was boosted by Gillian Shephard, his deputy on the "Lilley and Gilly" ticket

that Tory MPs are referring to as the "Lilley and Gilly" show.

Mrs Shephard said she supported Mr Lilley, the former Social Security Secretary, because of his "clarity of intellect", formidable knowledge of economics and "social compassion". Mr Lilley said that Mrs Shephard would be his John Prescott.

Mr Lilley, who will reveal his choice of campaign headquarters in the next few days, is also supported by Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. The campaign is being run by Eric Forth, the Eurosceptic former minister,

least five to six weeks. There is plenty of time yet," one aide said.

Mr Hague and Mr Redwood have both had a flying start in terms of organisation. The Tory MP Alan Duncan, whose Westminster home was the campaign headquarters for John Major's successful leadership contest in 1990, is a key figure behind the scenes for Mr Hague.

Mr Redwood's campaign is being co-ordinated from the offices of his Conservative 2000 Foundation in Westminster. The foundation, which has an administrative secretariat, is backed by wealthy but anonymous Tories who support Mr Redwood's populist right-wing agenda. The foundation has a detailed database on each one of the new Tory MPs. It has also forged strong links with Tory grassroots activists.

By contrast Stephen Dorrell's campaign headquarters are based, temporarily at least, at the Belgrave home of David Faber, the Tory MP for Westbury, who is his campaign manager. By yesterday evening there was only Mr Faber's own personal telephone line into the house.

Mr Dorrell had the public support of only one other MP: Simon Burns, the former Junior Health Minister. Gyles Brandreth, who lost his seat last week, and Graham Maule, a Tory MEP, turned out to give moral support. Several offers of funding have already been made to the former Health Secretary, but his aides declined to disclose their source.

The Michael Howard campaign is also well-organised. Mr Howard, whose leadership challenge was unveiled under the watchful eye of the industrialist Lord Hanson, will also have strong financial backing if it is required.

The Tory MPs Sir Michael Spicer and Tim Collins are running the campaign. Francis Maude, the former minister, is also a key backer.



William Hague declaring his candidacy yesterday in front of a purple backdrop prepared only the night before

Young pretender shows his colours

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WILLIAM HAGUE, announcing his campaign for the leadership of the Tory party yesterday, said that his political heroes were Margaret Thatcher and John Major. "And Peter Mandelson," muttered one member of his audience.

Anyone wandering into the room might have been mistaken for thinking that they had encountered an aspirant for the Labour leadership — perhaps a high-flyer among the Millbank Tendency. Mr Hague, the bookies' favourite for the Tory crown, chose to declare his hand in the airy, sun-filled Atrium restaurant, not far from Labour's election campaign headquarters.

"Ladies and gentlemen — William Hague," announced a sidekick, and the former Welsh Secretary strode purposefully onto a specially constructed platform. Mr Hague's rivals have tended to

announce their leadership bids from a sedentary position, behind tables. Here was Mr Hague standing behind a White House-style lectern with an illuminated set that declared: "A Fresh Start." The slick presentation prompted suggestions that his campaign must have been planned long before Tuesday morning when he broke off a deal with Michael Howard to be the former Home Secretary's running-mate for the leadership.

"I have an amazing team," explained Mr Hague. Later, his aides gave details of the astonishing overnight exertions of a design agency. The printers were happy to detail a "very fast photographic process which is new on the market".

Equally striking was the imperial purple of said backdrop, a colour that Tony Blair's team appropriated for the last week of the general election campaign. The resonances of Labour press conferences became overwhelming when

Mr Hague spoke earnestly of reforming his party and concluded, of the opposition: "We have a great deal to learn from them in communicating through the modern media."

Mr Hague's bald pate, which gleamed in the sunshine, adds years to his youthfully elfin features. He brushed aside suggestions that at 36 he was too young for the job: "By my age Pitt was nearly on his deathbed," he pointed out.

Certainly, Stephen Dorrell did not outdo Mr Hague for gravitas. The former Health Secretary finally announced yesterday that yes, he was a contender for the Tory leadership. He did so from a friend's doorstep, accompanied by David Faber, the MP from whose Belgrave house his campaign is operating, and such Tory luminaries as the ex-television presenter and now ex-MP Gyles Brandreth.

Backbenchers set poll date

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Tory MPs yesterday set the timetable for backbench elections to pre-cede the leadership contest.

May 21 will be the date for electing the chairman and executive members of the 1922 Committee, and the leadership vote is expected less than three weeks later.

The election of the chairman, five other executive

officers and 12 executive members will indicate the political balance of the party.

The date of the leadership election, which Tory rules dictate should begin on a Tuesday, depends in part on the length of recess ordered by Tony Blair at the end of May. A short Whitsun break in the week of May 26 will allow leadership contenders the opportunity to stage the first round of the election the following week, on June 3. A

second ballot would be held on Thursday, June 5, with a third, if necessary, on June 10. If Mr Blair holds to the tradition of a week-long Whitsun break, the leadership election may be delayed to June 10.

John MacGregor, a former Cabinet minister, Sir Archibald Hamilton, another former minister, and John Butterfield have made it clear they will stand for the 1922 chairmanship. Francis Maude, the former minister, is also a key backer.

MAJOR SERVICE

FREE MOT WORTH £28 WITH A MAJOR SERVICE

- Diesels and Cars welcome
- Free re-test if necessary
- MOT can be taken at any time

REAR SILENCER AND TAILPIPE EXHAUSTS

FROM ONLY £12.99

■ FREE FITTING

- EXHAUSTS TO FIT A WIDE RANGE OF MAKES AND MODELS
- 2 YEAR GUARANTEE

Ford Fiesta
from £12.99

Peugeot 405
from £37.99

Vauxhall Nova
from £19.99

Citroen BX17D
from £39.99

Nissan Micra
from £24.99

Renault 21
from £47.99

HOW TO FIND US

Just phone 0345 361361 for details
of your nearest Halfords Garage

FREE MOT WITH A MAJOR SERVICE



- The price we quote is the price you pay — no hidden extras.
- All work carried out by fully qualified technicians.
- All parts and workmanship guaranteed for 12,000 miles or 12 months, whatever comes first.

HALFORDS

GARAGE SERVICING

WE'RE ABOUT CARS

BUY NOW PAY LATER

4 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE

PAY NOTHING UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1997
WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £100

PLUS

EXTENDED CREDIT ALSO AVAILABLE
APR 34.9% (VARIABLE)**

Spend over £100 then at the end of the
4 months you can open a Running Account
Credit Facility.

TYRES

FITTED
FROM
ONLY

£9.99

COLWAY REMOULDS	165/70 x 13 SR	165/70 x 13 TR	165/65 x 13 HR	165/65 x 13 RR
from only £9.99 (135 x 13)	£13.99	£18.99	£18.99	£18.99

New Steel Radials	165/65 x 13 SR	165/65 x 13 TR	195/60 x 14 HR	195/60 x 14 RR
from only £14.99 (135 x 12)	£26.99	£26.99	£39.99	£39.99

Dayton	165/65 x 13 SR	165/65 x 13 TR	185/60 x 14 HR	185/60 x 14 RR
from only £19.99 (135 x 13)	£34.99	£34.99	£39.99	£39.99

DUNLOP	165/65 x 13 SR	165/65 x 13 TR	185/60 x 14 HR	185/60 x 14 RR
from only £27.99 (135 x 13)	£44.99	£44.99	£57.99	£57.99

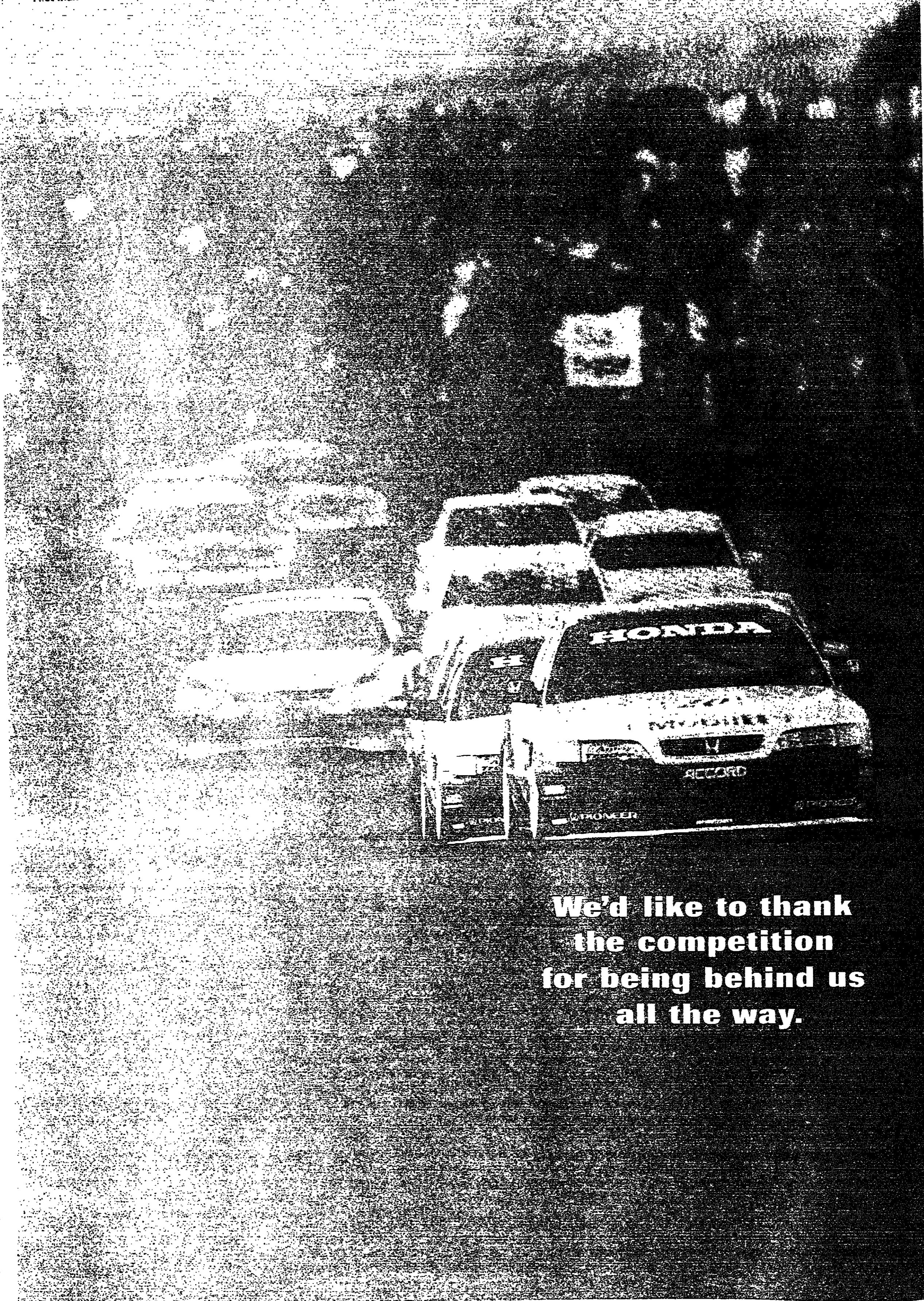
MICHELIN	165/65 x 13 SR	165/65 x 13 TR	185/60 x 14 HR	185/60 x 14 RR
from only £32.99 (135 x 13)	£48.99	£48.99	£89.99	£89.99

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT.
An additional charge will be made for new valves and
wheel balancing.

This does not affect your statutory rights. Private vehicles only. *Normal price £28.66. **Written quotations available on request. Subject to availability. Only available to persons over 18 years of age. Offers subject to availability. Opening times and days may vary. Halfords reserve the right to alter services offered. Halfords Ltd, Icknield Street Drive, Westford West, Redditch, Worcs. B98 0DE.

**HONDA**

First men, then machine.



**We'd like to thank
the competition
for being behind us
all the way.**

Thruxton Racetrack set some fantastic action at the weekend. Geoff's Tordun in the Team Honda Sport Accord watched it all happen in the rear-view mirror as he streaked to victory in the 6th round of the 1997 Touring Car Championships. Get behind the wheel of the road going Accord, and you'll know exactly what it feels like.

At just £25
per month,
tax-free saving
for a rainy day
is easy.

Just call
and ask for our
DI

0800 277

Crowds taunt Zaire dictator with cries of 'President Kabila' as he heads for summit

Mobutu departure brings hope of new Kinshasa regime

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

PRESIDENT Mobutu left Zaire for a regional summit with fellow French-speaking presidents yesterday, fueling hopes that he would not return to the country he has ruled for 32 years.

English-speaking diplomats and envoys said yesterday that they suspected that Mr Mobutu, 66, would use the visit to the summit as a ruse to slip out of Zaire into retirement in Morocco or France, where he owns several palatial homes.

Members of his family, however, including Mobutu Manda, his son and chief adviser, said yesterday that he would return to Zaire after the meeting with the Presidents of Togo, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Congo. One Mobutu family source

said: "He will ask them to help defend Kinshasa against the rebels with arms and men."

Mr Mobutu left Kinshasa in his black stretch Cadillac to jeers from the roadside. "President Kabila," chanted friends who, like their President, plundered Zaire's vast natural resources while the country collapsed.

Tambwe Mbaya, an unemployed labourer, said: "We do not know if Mobutu is going to come back. All we want is peace and development in this country. We have had him for 32 years and he has done nothing but send us back into the dark ages. He just causes trouble. He should stay out of the country." His remarks drew cheers from a small crowd eagerly reading newspapers displayed along a wall.

"Mobutu out! Kabila coming" the headlines of some newspapers said. Others said that at a meeting of French-speaking dictators in Libreville, Gabon, it was likely that Mr Mobutu would be given a sympathetic hearing to requests for troops. A diplomat

said: "There clearly is going to be a lot of nervousness in positions."

As he spoke, gunshots rang out across the Congo River.

They were fired by troops in

neighbouring Brazzaville who were shooting in the air to disperse striking workers from marching around the parliament buildings.

Letters, page 21



Repartition of Hutu refugees to Kisangani starts again after being suspended when 91 died in an overcrowded train

Death sentence upheld

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE
IN KIGALI

COURTS in Rwanda upheld death sentences against three people accused of genocide and crimes against humanity and pronounced the death penalty on 11 more people, the country's official radio reported yesterday.

The radio said that a court of appeal in Nyabizindu, in the southern Butare prefecture, on Monday had upheld death sentences against three men charged with genocide and other crimes against humanity committed in 1994.

Seven other people were sentenced to death in Gikongoro prefecture, also in the south, and another four suspects in the western Gisenyi prefecture. Two other people were sentenced to 20 years in jail and three others given three-year prison terms.

Approximately 100,000 Hutus are awaiting trial on charges of participating in the massacre of more than half a million Tutsis.

Ex-minister takes blame for killings by apartheid troops

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

GENERAL Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister, declared yesterday that he accepted full moral responsibility for actions taken by troops under his control, including raids into neighbouring states when innocent civilians were killed.

Appearing at a hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Cape Town, he commended the African National Congress for deciding that its national leadership between 1961 and 1994 would assume responsibility for the actions of its Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) guerrillas, even when they had stepped out of line. It was regrettable, he said, that his former National Party Cabinet colleagues, particularly P. W. Botha, the former President, were not doing the same.

General Malan was acquitted in October on charges of murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to murder arising from the massacre of 13 men, women and children in a village in KwaZulu in 1987. He said yesterday that he regretted the killing of innocent people in raids carried out by South African troops but that war was an ugly business. He said that as a Cabinet minister he had agreed to the

establishment of the Civilian Co-Operation Bureau, the covert body set up by the security forces to eliminate opponents of the apartheid Government. But he claimed that he had never ordered assassinations.

He had attended meetings of the State Security Council, an inner-Cabinet committee set up by Mr Botha, when plans to launch a "third force" were discussed, but he insisted that it was never formed.

General Malan was Minister of Defence from 1980 to 1991 when the ANC threatened to break off constitutional talks unless he and Adrian Vlok, Minister of Law and Order, were dismissed from the Cabinet. Between 1976 and 1980 he was chief of the defence force.

He told the Commission yesterday that he would consider applying for amnesty from prosecution for apartheid-era human rights abuses. The deadline for amnesty applications expires on Saturday. The Commission has granted amnesty to 39 people and rejected 77 applications.

Durban: Children who were victims of a decade-long turf war in KwaZulu/Natal province will tell their stories at Commission hearings here next week. (Reuters)



25,000 miles flat out at 140mph.
You'll never need to do it.
But it's nice to know you can.

IF YOU'RE CONTEMPLATING TEST-DRIVING A SAAB 900, think about the one it's already had. We drove one around Alabama's Talladega circuit for 8 days and nights, non-stop, flat out (that's 25,000 miles, 140mph).

In the process we broke forty International long-distance records. The engine, despite our best efforts, remained undamaged.

Clearly, it's nice to know that the Saab 900 possesses such power and endurance.

Better still, it's nice to know it's not beyond your means. On the road, a Saab 900 will cost you from £15,500, whilst contract hire for business users is from £199 a month.

To arrange a test drive, phone 0800 626 556. And on the day, remember to observe the speed limit.



£199 PER MONTH* PLUS INITIAL DEPOSIT. CONTRACT HIRE SCHEME. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: SAAB 900

Period of hire 36 months. Deposit £3,219.30. Monthly payments = 47 x £199.00. On the road cash price = £15,500.00

TO SAAB INFORMATION CENTRE, FREEPOST WC1814, LONDON WC1B 3PZ PLEASE SEND FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SAAB 900. SAAB 900 CD (SALOON). SAAB 900CS (SDR).

Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Present car make & model: _____ Year of reg: _____ Age: _____

Car driven 400-10,000 miles per annum. Price for hire £199 per month. Payment £199 per month. Contract hire £199 per month. Contract based on 10,000 miles plus maintenance. Contract hire £199 per month. Price correct if pre-arranged. Extra mileage charged 10p/mile. Extra insurance £1.00 per day. Extra breakdown cover £1.00 per day. Extra wear and tear £1.00 per day. All payments include VAT.

SPRING OFFERS

Book by 16 May, travel by 30 June

AMSTERDAM 248

£108*

Eurostar

£124

Transavia

£145

Time Off

£160

Sovereign

£174

Eurolink

£188

Time Off

£192

Sovereign

£204*

Time Off

£218

Sovereign

£228*

Time Off

£232*

Sovereign

£248*

Time Off

£252*

Sovereign

£268*

Time Off

£272*

Sovereign

£288*

Time Off

£292*

Sovereign

£308*

Time Off

£312*

Sovereign

£328*

Time Off

£332*

Sovereign

£348*

Time Off

£352*

Sovereign

£368*

Time Off

£372*

Sovereign

£388*

Time Off

£392*

Sovereign

£408*

Time Off

£412*

Sovereign

£428*

Time Off

£432*

Sovereign

£448*

Time Off

£452*

Sovereign

£468*

Time Off

£472*

Sovereign

£488*

Time Off

£492*

Sovereign

£508*

Time Off

£512*

Sovereign

£528*

Time Off

£532*

Sovereign

£548*

Time Off

£552*

Sovereign

£568*

Time Off

£572*

Sovereign

£588*

Time Off

£592*

Sovereign

£608*

Time Off

£612*

Sovereign

£628*

Time Off

£632*

Sovereign

£648*

Time Off

£652*

Sovereign

£668*

Time Off

Cook pledges co-operation with Europe

Sterile confrontation consigned to the 'Conservative past'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS
AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ON HIS inaugural trip abroad as Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook flew to Paris and Bonn yesterday where he proclaimed that a new era in Britain's relations with the rest of Europe based on active co-operation, rather than sterile confrontation, had dawned.

As a symbol of what he pledged would be the Government's constructive approach to negotiating in Europe, Mr Cook announced an agreement with France and Germany to seek a worldwide ban on landmines.

In France, Mr Cook was received with all the pomp one would expect for the representative of a new, more Euro-friendly Government promising to put an end to divisions between the two countries.

With France in the grip of its own hotly contested election, Mr Cook was feted first by the Socialist opposition, and then by the Government, both equally anxious to attract some of Labour's reflected electoral glory.

Mr Cook said he hoped his visit to France would mark a fresh start in Anglo-French relations. "Britain wants to be one of the three major players in Europe," he added.

The new British Government "will draw a line under the sterile, negative and fruitless confrontation which was the policy of the previous Government", Mr Cook said. "We want to see Britain be one

thing for Europe" and described Labour and the Socialists as "sister parties".

At the Foreign Ministry in the Quai d'Orsay, Mr Cook was accorded the full five-star diplomatic treatment: a reception by the Republican Guard respondent in their blue uniforms and flashing sabres, as well as red carpets and lunch with his opposite number, Hervé de Charette.

A ministry official said that a full honour guard was not usual for a working lunch; nor were red carpets in the pouring rain. The Government had decided to mark Mr Cook's first visit with special fanfare.

"I am confident that we can achieve more working together than competing against each other, or shouting against each other, as under the previous Government."

The first stop on his one-day tour was for a private meeting with Lionel Jospin, leader of the French Socialist Party, which polls suggest is steadily gaining ground on the ruling centre-right coalition in the run-up to the election which will take place in two rounds, on May 25 and June 1.

The Foreign Secretary emphasised Labour's good relations with the French Socialists, but said Britain would work closely with whichever party was in power after the election.

M. Jospin called Tony Blair's victory "a good thing for the British people but also a good



Robin Cook addresses a news conference in Paris yesterday with Lionel Jospin, the French Socialist leader

summit in Amsterdam. "We want to go to the conference helping to set the direction and not, as the previous Government would have done, merely responding to the proposals of others."

In Bonn too, Mr Cook was not shy about stating the limits to Britain's new friendship with continental Europe.

When Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said that "above all we need a common European currency", Mr Cook made plain that the British Government was concentrating on other economic priorities. On European economic and monetary union, the Foreign Secretary said: "A hard-headed assessment will

be made towards the end of the year."

Mr Cook emphasised to the Germans in turn his commitment to a deal in Amsterdam where European Union states will try to modify the Maastricht treaty and further develop European institutions. "It is our intention to reach an agreement at the inter-govern-

mental conference," he said. "We go to Amsterdam not with the intention of blocking an agreement. There are many areas where I am confident we can reach an agreement."

The outcome would be a "package" good for Britain, good for Germany and good for Europe."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Buddhist jailed by Chinese

Beijing: A Tibetan monk has been jailed for six years for colluding with the Dalai Lama in the hunt for the reincarnation of the tenth Panchen Lama, Buddhism's second most senior leader, who died in 1989. The Chinese authorities named their own choice.

China's official Xinhua news agency said a court in Xigaze prefecture had convicted Qazhi Qamba Chilai for trying to split the country and leaking state secrets after a trial in camera. (Reuters)

Russian envoy leaving early

Anatoli Adamishin, 62, Russia's ambassador to London, is returning home early for "personal reasons" (Our Foreign Staff writes). He arrived in Britain less than three years ago and was expected to serve up to five years.

Diplomatic sources in Moscow say the frontrunner to replace him is Yuri Fokin, 61, now ambassador to Norway.

Briton escapes

Freetown: Kathy Jones, a British UN peace official, escaped unharmed when Sierra Leone gunmen ambushed a UN car. They wounded Robert Palmer, an American, and killed the driver. (Reuters)

Population rise

Washington: The world's population will swell to 6.1 billion by 2000 from its current 5.8 billion, and jump to 6.8 billion by 2025, according to a Population Reference Bureau report. (AFP)

Ambush deaths

Agartala: Members of the separatist National Liberation Front of Tripura ambushed a security patrol in northeastern India, shooting dead 18 paramilitary soldiers and a policeman. (Reuters)

Down at heel

Manila: Imelda Marcos, the former Philippines First Lady noted for her many shoes and extravagant lifestyle, has been declared the poorest member of Congress, with a net debt of about \$680,000. (AP)

New team to take tougher stance on human rights

By MICHAEL BINION
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ROBIN COOK has told the Foreign Office that the Government will take a much tougher line than the Conservatives on arms exports, and may halt all weapons deliveries to countries with dubious human rights records, such as Indonesia.

The Foreign Secretary has also instructed diplomats to start urgent discussions with Britain's partners on a worldwide ban on the manufacture and export of landmines. Yesterday Britain made clear that it would join French and German initiatives in banning the use of all anti-personnel mines — a step the past

Conservative Government was reluctant to take. Guidelines will outline new Foreign Office priorities intended to give much greater emphasis to human rights in Britain's dealing with other countries. In opposition Labour called for an oil embargo against Nigeria, and is expected to take a tough stand against General Sani Abacha's military Government in the run-up to the Edinburgh Commonwealth summit in the autumn.

The aim will be to set out Labour's foreign policy principles and priorities. These will emphasise key themes which were trailed in the election manifesto: an effort to engage Britain's European Union

partners in a more co-operative relationship, greater emphasis on human rights, more attention to the global environment and policies supporting Britain's commitments at the Rio earth summit and a new emphasis on arms control.

Labour will also insist that the Foreign Office does more to promote British trade and commercial interests. Mr Cook is to tell Foreign Office staff that they must do more to persuade public opinion that their work directly benefits Britain and British exports. He will make this message clear to all British ambassadors around the world in a video.

Since the new Government took office, Mr Cook has been involved in

intensive briefing sessions, mapping out his policies to his senior staff. He will also try to change the elitist image of the diplomatic service, looking for new ways to boost the recruitment of women and ethnic minorities who are currently very poorly represented.

Next week the new Foreign Office team will begin one of the most hectic years in British diplomacy. Mr Cook will see Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, today, and travel to Paris on Monday for a meeting of the Western European Union, and then will have an intensive session of European consultations before the informal special EU summit on May 23, intended to introduce the Blair Government to Britain's EU partners.

Venice in peril as tides push water level to 75-year high

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

FLOOD waters in Venice rose to their highest spring level for 75 years yesterday, raising fears that the city is sinking at an increasing rate. Sensors sounded as the water rose to a record 49½ in above sea level, with tourists and residents splashing through water 1½ ft deep in St Mark's Square.

Lady Clarke, president of the Venice in Peril Fund, who lives near the Grand Canal, said the flooding was "extremely unusual for May". Officials confirmed that it was the worst since 1923. Duckboards which had been put away after the winter were

hastily taken out of storage. Meteorologists said the unusual floods were partly due to the heavy rain in northern Italy over the past few days. But studies by Venetians in Peril and Italian environmental agencies show the high waters have become more frequent because of man-made causes, including a channel cut through the lagoon for oil tankers, which has upset the hydrological balance of the lagoon, and extraction of water from artesian basins, which has aggravated subsidence.

The Italian Government is expected to make a preliminary decision this weekend on whether to allow oil and gas drilling in the lagoon, a project which has aroused further international alarm.

Venice has suffered periodic flooding since it was built on wooden piles buried deep in the lagoon in the 8th century. But whereas high tides used to occur every three or four years, and usually in the autumn, they now threaten the city several times a year.

Last November, the thirtieth anniversary of the disastrous floods of 1966, the water reached 52 in.

City authorities, who are preparing for celebrations next week marking the 200th anniversary of the end of the Venetian Republic, have increased flood defences. But a long-planned tidal barrier at the mouth of the lagoon has still not been built, partly because of environmental objections but also because of bureaucratic obstacles and alleged corruption over engineering contracts.

Letters, page 21

Catholics advised to enjoy life

Rome: The Roman Catholic Church suffers from a "sackcloth and ashes" image and should adopt a more Epicurean "eat, drink and be merry" attitude to life, according to a leading theologian (Richard Owen writes).

Mgr Giordano Muraro, the "resident theologian" on *Famiglia Cristiana*, Italy's most widely read Catholic magazine, said there was "nothing un-Christian about the pursuit of pleasure".

Monsignor Muraro, a Dominican priest, told readers there was no scriptural authority for the often "excessively gloomy and lachrymose" Roman Catholic approach to life's pleasures, which he listed as "eating, drinking, sex, dancing and playing". He said: "It is not written anywhere that suffering is a pre-condition for entering Paradise."

The magazine has increasingly incurred the wrath of the Vatican by advocating liberal views.

JAEGER



NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATE

With effect from
6th May 1997
our Base Rate has been
increased by 0.25%
to 6.25% p.a.

Member HSBC Group

Issued by Midland Bank plc

BANK OF IRELAND BASE RATE.

Bank of Ireland announces that
with effect from close of business

on 7 May 1997

its Base Rate has increased from

6.00% to 6.25%

Bank of Ireland
Incorporated in Ireland with limited liability

Head Office, 36 Queen Street, London, EC4R 1BN

Intelligence officials fear war with neighbours and Palestinian uprising

Israeli security chiefs paint Netanyahu a gloomy picture

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN TEL AVIV



Netanyahu: long-term security analysis

THE Israeli Government has been presented with one of its gloomiest reviews in many years on prospects for peace in the Middle East. Among the predictions are that by 2000 Iran will have missiles capable of hitting Israel and that the conflict with the Palestinians could deteriorate further.

Information obtained by *The Times* shows that Israel's security establishment believes fears of war are fast replacing hopes of peace. Among its immediate recommendations are a special expenditure of 50 million shekels (£10 million) to upgrade the supply of gas masks to the civilian population.

Key elements of the assessment presented to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, include these points, said to be based on hard, professional intelligence rather than surmise or propaganda:

■ Iran is in the process of manufacturing rockets described as cousins of the North Korean No Dong I, with a range of 800 miles, the first prototype of which could be

launched within two years. They will be capable of hitting targets in Israel and may also be used against Saudi Arabia. Israeli experts believe Iran is aiming for an eventual takeover of Saudi oilfields.

■ Whoever takes over from President Rafsanjani of Iran, after elections on May 25, is expected to steer Tehran along a more revolutionary international track. As well as chemical and biological warheads, Iranian missiles could have self-supplied nuclear capability within ten years — or in less time if plutonium or highly enriched uranium is obtained on the global black market.

■ Syria has embarked on what is classified as a national project involving large sums of money on manufacturing chemical weapons with Russian help, including deadly VX nerve gas.

■ These gases enter through the pores of the skin rather than through inhalation.

■ Since 1994, President Assad has ordered Syrian forces to adopt a military option. Such an option is serious, but circumstances will dictate whether he will employ it.

■ New weapons that could seriously complicate the present conflict along Israel's northern border include "long-range" Karyushas capable of reaching the outskirts of Haifa, and Stinger shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles.

These come from American supplies originally sent to Mujahidin fighters in Afghanistan. A number have been fired in Lebanon but have failed for reasons unknown. Their use has been so far unpublicised.

■ Syria has embarked on what is classified as a national project involving large sums of money on manufacturing chemical weapons with Russian help, including deadly VX nerve gas.

■ Iran will continue beefing up supplies to the Hezbollah (Party of God) guerrillas fighting a low-intensity conflict with Israel in occupied southern Lebanon.

■ In the past year, 40 Iranian jumbo jets arrived in Damascus, the Syrian capital, carrying

ing weaponry for Hezbollah. The group is also mounting attacks on Jewish targets abroad.

■ New weapons that could seriously complicate the present conflict along Israel's northern border include "long-range" Karyushas capable of reaching the outskirts of Haifa, and Stinger shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles.

These come from American supplies originally sent to Mujahidin fighters in Afghanistan. A number have been fired in Lebanon but have failed for reasons unknown. Their use has been so far unpublicised.

■ Syria has embarked on what is classified as a national project involving large sums of money on manufacturing chemical weapons with Russian help, including deadly VX nerve gas.

■ Iran will continue beefing up supplies to the Hezbollah (Party of God) guerrillas fighting a low-intensity conflict with Israel in occupied southern Lebanon.

■ In the past year, 40 Iranian jumbo jets arrived in Damascus, the Syrian capital, carrying

These gases enter through the pores of the skin rather than through inhalation.

■ Since 1994, President Assad



New Katyusha rockets, the Hezbollah weapon, will be able to hit outskirts of Haifa

Hassan, is likely. But beyond five years, complications could arise concerning the King's sons and the country's 60 per cent Palestinian majority.

Under President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi regime is seen as having Iranian backing, but Uday is dismissed as clinically insane.

could lead to a total collapse, with regional implications.

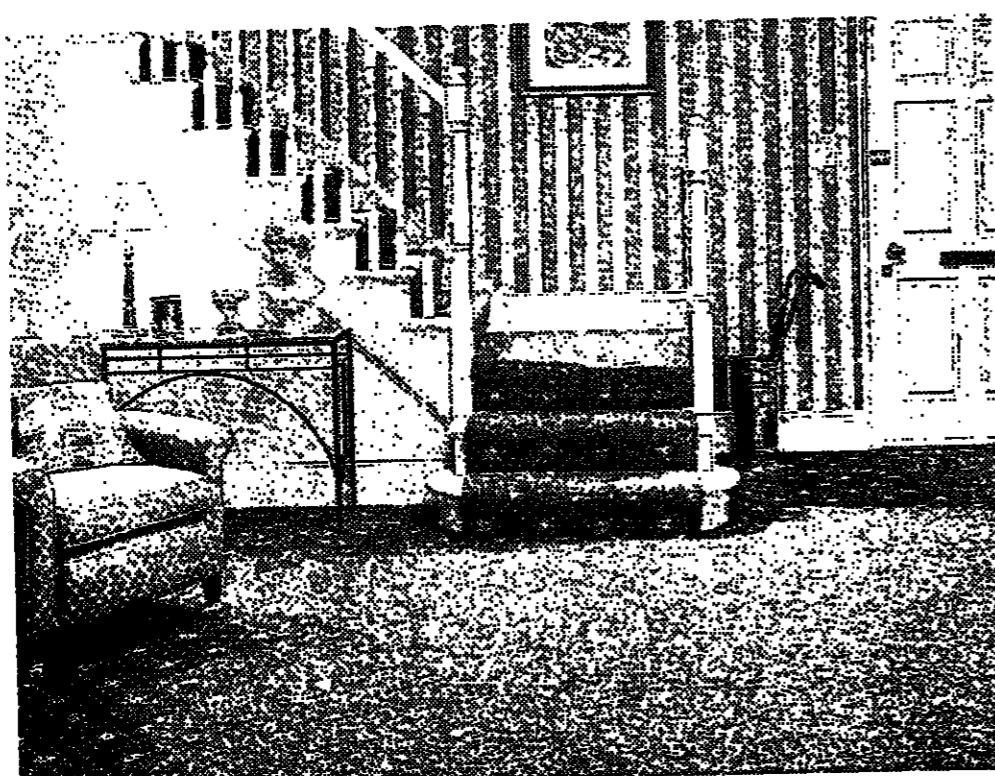
A recent assassination attempt on Saddam's favoured elder son Uday is seen as having Iranian backing, but Uday is dismissed as clinically insane.

ALLIED CARPETS

Only 10% Deposit Now

UP TO 3 YEARS 0%
apr

INTEREST FREE CREDIT



Monthly payments from just £10

Spend	Free Credit Period	Payments from
£200 - £499	18 months	£10 a month
£500 & over	3 years	£12.50 a month

HALF PRICE CARPETS
and 10% off all vinyl and wood-style floorings

plus
FREE UNDERLAY
with all Axminsters and Wiltons £23.91m² (£19.99 sq.yd.) & over*

Allied CARPETS

35 Years of Inspirational Choices for your Home

For your nearest Allied Carpets ring FREEPAGES 0800 192 192

*Example Purchase price £500. Deposit £50, minimum 10%. Balance £450, payable by 36 direct debit payments of £12.50 per month. 25% interest on credit £500. APR Subject to status. *VAT-exempt customers from Allied Carpets, Chipping Barnet Ltd, who are approved credit brokers. *Free Finance Scheme underlines £47.77 m² (£2.59 sq.yd.) on all Axminsters and Wiltons over £23.91 m² (£19.99 sq.yd.). These offers are not available in Scotland.

200MHz INTEL PENTIUM plus MICROSOFT OFFICE '97 PROFESSIONAL

and a whole lot more...



£999

ex VAT

£1173.83 inc VAT

LATEST VERSION

PROFESSIONAL EDITION

FEATURING:

EXCEL '97, WORD '97,

POWERPOINT,

ACCESS '97 &

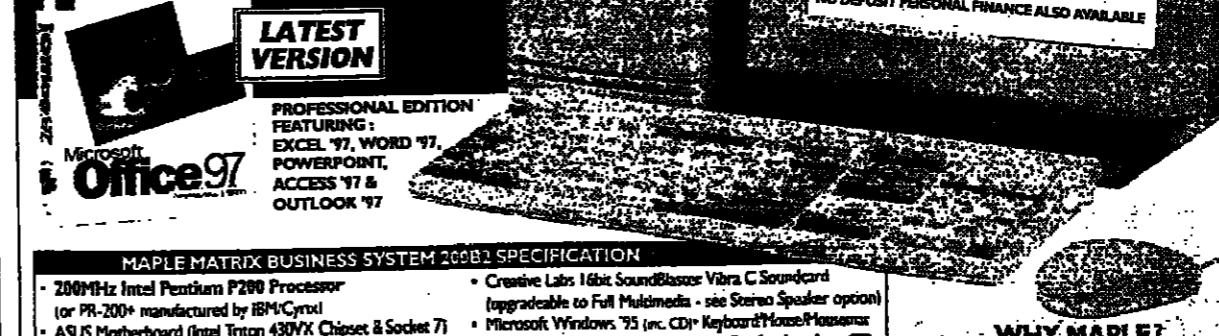
OUTLOOK '97

FULL VERSION MICROSOFT
OFFICE '97 PRO PLUS 3.0GB
HARD DRIVE, 32MB EDO RAM,
512B BURST MODE CACHE,
12 SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE

BUSINESS LEASE FROM

UNDER £9 PER WEEK

NO DEPOSIT PERSONAL FINANCE ALSO AVAILABLE



MAPLE MATRIX BUSINESS SYSTEM 200B2 SPECIFICATION

- 200MHz Intel Pentium Processor (or 180MHz manufactured by IBM/Cyrix)
- ASUS Motherboard (Intel Triton 430VX Chipset & Socket 7)
- 512B Pipeline Burst Mode Cache
- 3.0GB High Performance IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 32MB EDO RAM (30% Faster than Conventional RAM)
- 512B Burst Mode Cache
- ATI 64Mb PCI 1MB DX Object Graphics Upgradeable to 2Mb
- Preview FST Digital 14" 288x216 SVGA Colour Monitor
- 12 Speed CD-ROM Drive

UPGRADES & OPTIONS / ADDONS

• Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
• Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
• Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
• Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
• 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

- Creative Labs 16bit SoundBlaster Vortex 3 Soundcard
- Microsoft Windows 95 inc. CD-R Keyboard/Mouse/Power
- Full Version Microsoft Office '97 Professional on CD (for Corel WordPerfect 5.0 or Lotus SmartSuite '95)
- Choice of Desktop, Floor or Mid Tower Case
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

MAPLE OPTI-TFT COLOUR NOTEBOOK II

JOHN SCHULTS - REUTER

US report attacks Swiss for trade in Holocaust bullion

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE receipt by Switzerland and other neutral nations of Nazi gold looted from Holocaust victims and central banks helped Germany to prolong its capacity to wage war, according to a scathing study released by the US Government yesterday.

The report said there was conclusive proof that gold coins, jewellery and dental fillings taken from concentration camp victims were melted with gold plundered from banks in occupied countries into bars that were traded abroad. There was no evidence that neutral countries accepted such tainted gold bars knowing their origin.

While singling out Switzerland among the neutral countries trading with wartime Germany for its harshest criticism, the report castigated the United States role as inadequate and accused Britain of resisting America's more aggressive efforts to seek compensation for refugees from the stolen gold after the war.

Britain had feared that providing looted funds for resettlement of refugees would conflict with its restrictions on the number of Jewish refugees who could enter Palestine, then under British mandate, the report said. It also found that the urgent desire of Britain and France to revive commerce with Switzerland after the war made them reluctant to join in tough economic measures against

the Swiss, causing serious policy differences with the US.

The report was compiled under orders from President Clinton from the files of 11 government departments, including millions of classified documents in the US National Archives. The project was directed by Stuart Eizenstat, a veteran Washington official.

He favoured using the remaining Gold Pool of \$70 million (£43 million), controlled by Britain, France and the US, in a fund for the benefit of surviving Holocaust victims. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced in London on Tuesday that Britain would host an international conference to help resolve the ownership of Nazi gold seized by the Allies.

The report said serious

Review pledged on war conduct

Geneva: The Swiss Government yesterday welcomed the Eizenstat Report and promised to review the report's assessment of its conduct during the Second World War (Peter Capella writes).

But Flavio Cotti, the Swiss Foreign Minister, said that, at first glance the report did not recognise Switzerland's position in the war, surrounded by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

shortcomings in Allied policy led to a loss of most leverage before Switzerland had met its obligations to return Nazi gold after the war. Neither the US nor its Allies pressed the neutral countries hard enough to fulfil their moral obligations to help Holocaust survivors by redistributing heirless assets for their benefit.

Nazi Germany transferred looted gold worth \$400 million, equivalent to \$3.8 billion in today's dollars, to the Swiss National Bank to finance its war machine, the report said. In all, the Germans confiscated an estimated \$580 million, \$5.6 billion in today's value, "one of the greatest thefts by a Government in history".

Switzerland had a complex role during the war but the persistence of its "business as usual" attitude in resisting a postwar return of the gold was inexplicable, the report said.

The other neutrals were Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey, which joined the Allied effort just before the end of the war. Of these, Sweden was the most co-operative.

The Swiss were obdurate negotiators, the report said. They denied having looted gold and opposed the return of any until the current international pressure came to bear.

Swiss banks now have a fund of \$180 million for needy survivors of the Nazis. "A positive healing process has begun," the report concluded.



THE reclusive French actress Isabelle Adjani, above, came out of hiding yesterday to join the adjudicators for the fifty-first Cannes Film Festival, which opened yesterday (Dalya Alberge writes). She is the festival president.

Two years ago, she locked herself in her hotel, refusing to emerge. Yesterday, though, she spoke at a press conference of the excitement of watching films. Adjani's talents were

Adjani comes out of hiding

discovered and promoted by the songwriter Serge Gainsbourg and the film-maker François Truffaut and she is best known for her performance as Camille Claudel, Rodin's mistress, for which she was received an Oscar nomination.

Crowds jostled for the briefest glimpse of the first of the Hollywood

superstars to descend on Cannes, Bruce Willis came to launch *The Fifth Element*, which opened the festival. It is a Hollywood sci-fi blockbuster set in 25th-century New York — made in Britain at Pinewood Studios by the French director, Luc Besson. Besson said that Britain's superlative technicians were a major

reason for his decision to make the film across the Channel. Willis plays a New York cabby who fights the aliens, a cross between armadillos and porcupines. The star, who is said to have been paid £15 million for a *Die Hard* sequel, said that he loves coming to Europe because he is not asked about the cost of the film and how much actors get paid. He was immediately asked those very questions.

Kennedy escapes underage sex charge

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

THE latest lurid instalment in the sex lore of the Kennedy clan appears to have ended as abruptly as it had begun, with the woman who alleged that she had an affair with Michael Kennedy when she was a 14-year-old babysitter announcing yesterday that she would not press charges.

Lawyers for Marisa Verrochi, now 19, cited fear of pressure and damaging pub-

licity as the main reasons for which she would not proceed with a formal complaint against Mr Kennedy, 39. Members of her family are among the Democratic party's leading donors, and were close to Senator Robert Kennedy, Michael's father.

The episode comes only six years after a cousin, William Kennedy Smith, was acquitted of raping a woman in Palm Beach. Although Miss Verrochi will not take the matter to court, public opinion remains

convinced that Mr Kennedy did have sex with her when she was below the age of legal consent, and was summed up yesterday by the *New York Post* headline: "Looks like Kennedy is off hook in rape case".

The scandal broke late last month when the *Boston Globe* revealed that Miss Verrochi had a passionate five-year relationship with Mr Kennedy, starting at an age when sex with her would have constituted statutory rape and



Kennedy: allegedly had affair with babysitter, 14

ending only last September. The revelations led to a "preliminary review" by Massachusetts police and prosecutors, but the investigations soon stalled after the Verrochi refused to co-operate. The family did not, however, issue a public denial.

Yesterday the police chief of Cohasset, where the Verrochi live, told the *New York Post* that he had a "gut feeling" that the Verrochi would "cover for Kennedy" to protect their only daughter.

Navy women 'jinx' denied

New York: Speculation that the presence of women on the aircraft carrier *USS John F. Kennedy* has cast a jinx on the vessel has been dismissed by American naval commanders (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Five crew members have been killed in the past three months on board the heavily armed carrier. Eight others have been injured seriously.

The recently refitted ship took more than 300 women into its crew earlier this year, and hushed talk below decks

now is of such traditional sailors' bogeys as mermaids and sirens. Women ratings are referred to by many men as "Els" or "female Jonahs". Some crewmen invoke the name of Wendy, from *Peter Pan*, who was considered an ill omen by Captain Hook.

On Tuesday, naval divers called off their search for Nadia Allen, 22, who was lost overboard in calm seas about 150 miles off the Florida coast last week. She has been listed officially as "lost at sea". In March, four crewmen on the carrier were killed when one of its helicopters crashed while flying a training sortie off the North Carolina coast.

Despite the sequence of disasters, Commander Joe Grabisch, a spokesman for the US Navy, dismissed suggestions of a "Jonah-type jinx" or a woman-related "seagoing curse". He said: "None of these events is related. Naval operations are inherently dangerous and incidents can occur from time to time."

Receive a £100 voucher
when you spend
£400 on Jaeger
Menswear

Offer available until Saturday 24th May 1997.

JA EGER

Call 0171 200 4000 for your nearest store.

Terms and Conditions apply, see in store for details.

Offer only valid in Jaeger's own outlets



1967-1987

Final day of our series: growing up with a cold, tyrannical father

I was born in the north London suburb of Winchmore Hill in a late 1920s terraced house on August 23, 1935, the youngest of three sons of an impoverished commercial traveller, George Edward Clement Strong, and his wife, Mabel Ada Smart.

The marriage was not a good one. My father had no sense of responsibility whatsoever for any of his children. It was my mother who was to be the driving force to secure for them what her father had told her was the key to their future — education. To achieve that she worked hard, taking every kind of job, and leaving behind her a debt which no son can ever adequately repay.

Shy and introspective, I felt alone in this unhappy, riven household, creating instead my own secure world of my theatres and through wielding the paintbrush. Early on I became fascinated by the past, and although what I would like to have done most was to design for the stage (later I had the good fortune to marry into that), it was deemed safe for me to go on to read history at university with perhaps a career in teaching in mind. That came at the end of important formative years at the local grammar school, Edmonton County, where there happened to be one other boy, slightly older, who was also to achieve public distinction — Norman Tebbit.

Christmas Day 1969
I am writing this entry at 1.15am, on Christmas morning at home at 23 Colne Road, having returned from midnight Mass. How strange it is to be sleeping in this back bedroom again after so long. I was the youngest of three brothers. Until I was 12 or 13 I shared the back bedroom with my brother Brian, at least from about 1944, when he came back from evacuation. We started in one double bed and then, as the war ended, that was exchanged with someone nearby for two black iron Victorian ones. Mine was that nearest the door and the light switch, and I had to get out of bed to turn it off, treading on the cold linoleum square which was all that covered the floorboards.

There were no points and no bedside tables. The room was distempered and there was a small cast-iron fireplace which was never lit. In winter it was so cold that each morning the windows were a flower pattern of thick frost.

The room was divided down the middle, the left-hand side being assigned to me. The solitary piece of furniture which was mine was an old wooden chest of drawers painted green. Also, it had no drawers, and a curtain was stretched across it on a wire. Behind that lurked the shelves, on which resided what little one had. But it was better than what preceded it: for the double bed had during the war been moved to the room below and sat beneath an Anderson shelter, the centre of the room being jacked up by wooden joists in case the ceiling fell in due to bombing. The back room in which I now lay had housed our neighbour's furniture piled high for the duration of the war. It wasn't till my mid-teens, when my eldest brother Derek married, that I had a room of my own, the tiny box room at the front of the house about 9ft by 8ft.

December 26.
How old Father seems, and sad and irritating. He will be 75 next year. I look at him and find it very difficult to believe that he was apparently quite the life of the party when he was young. Occasionally there's a flicker of what might once have been but what I see now is a slightly bent figure with an enormous bloated stomach. He left school at 12 and seems to have forgotten what little he ever learnt there. I find it difficult to have

communication with him, worse now because he sleeps all day, walking only for meals, and has become terribly forgetful. His life had been a monument to the lack of will-power. No one should be like that. I think in a funny kind of way that he loves my mother, despite having ill-treated her for 40 years. He wanted a housekeeper, not a wife. His attitude to women is basically pre-war working-class. He still respects her reading a book because he regards that as lasting, but also because she is demonstrating her relative literacy over him.

November 21, 1984
The telephone rang at about 8am this morning. It was Derek, my eldest brother. Father had died in the night. I remember saying to Julia years ago: "Don't think that I will shed a tear when this happens and I shan't feel any guilt about it." I was right. How could it be otherwise? He was never interested in any of us. He had barely addressed a word to me for the last 25 years. Home in retrospect was largely hell, and all one regrets is that one didn't get away from it soon enough. Everything revolved around him. My early years were all of a pattern. In deprived wartime he always had his egg and bacon breakfast. We did not. He always had to have his piece of steak for supper when he came in from work. We stood and watched. He always had what he wanted on the radio. We listened. He would always eat on his own. Indeed, Mother cooked in relays. He would shout "Mabel, Mabel", and she would rush panic-stricken to the kitchen. "Where's the mustard/salt-sauce etc?" The particular item would be only ten feet away in the larder or just behind him on the gas stove. But he would never move. He haunted her through life. "Why are you reading?" "Haven't you got a wartime job yet?" "Look at Mabel's teeth" (when the poor thing had lost one at the front). It was neverending. Until the 1960s she was given £24.56 a week with which to feed and clothe herself and three boys. Yes, I did know what poverty was. Some days we would sit trying to rake together the fare to Enfield or Palmers Green and a 15p seat at the cinema.

He had no interest in any of his children that I can ever remember. He might have done when we were very young. Certainly he had no idea that they ought to be brought up. Year in and year out we trembled, awaiting his return from work. On went the old pink dressing-gown and out came the whisky. He sat in the corner of the sitting room with the radio by him. Piles of dirty handkerchiefs were to

'Home was hell, and all one regrets is that one didn't get away soon enough'

hand, for he suffered badly from asthma. Indeed, he was always "ill". No one was ever so ill as he was but he went on till his 90th year. All my memories are of him being ill, of us having to be quiet or leave the room or carry things up and down stairs as he sat huddled in bed.

I think that he only ever took me out two or three times on my own, and that would be fishing on a Sunday morning, which I loathed. I remember making at school a small pouch for him to keep his tobacco in for Christmas. He dismantled it virtually before my eyes in order to use the piece of chamois leather as a duster. All through the war and after he had boxes of black-market chocolates which he kept in a cupboard. He would cheerfully eat one in front of us, or give one to one child and none to the others.

Only once did my mother ever get him to go to a parents' evening at Edmonton County Grammar School. I recall coming home clutching a very good report and advancing to show it to him. He pushed it away unread.

My only memory of 23 Colne Road was of life under a dictatorship, my mother sitting, sometimes weeping, in the kitchen. Everything she said was prefaced with "But don't tell your father". For 35 years this went on. Only in the last 20 did she get her own

endured some awful humiliation. I have never felt anger, rage and resentment so deeply, so bitterly, as I did in my early teens.

I blamed him too for what I had become: "Mother's boy". For years as I grew into manhood I took his place. I went everywhere with her even into my early twenties. It was all so wrong, and when I achieved the break, my mother never quite recovered from it. On my marriage it was total. But it should never have been allowed to happen.

And yes, I was ashamed of Colne Road. I dreaded anyone I knew coming there. Father would always deliberately say the wrong thing. The person concerned would then be torn to pieces afterwards. Only as life passes and happiness comes can one have the true measure of unhappiness. Worse than that only when one matures and sees good homes and good parenthood can one's own childhood be placed into context. God knows, my mother really did what she could. Yes, she loved us boys all. She cooked, laboured, went to work, subsidised us and really believed in our education, but it was a price. We were to be her boys. No one was good enough for us, none of us should ever marry. The attitude was primeval. As I married last, for years I was held up as an example. "Roy's sensible," she would proclaim.

But to return to my father. What did life mean to him? Did he enjoy it? One tries to look with compassion at any human being. I suppose he got pleasure out of some things: fishing and the garden. The terrible thing is that I cannot think of one human gesture he ever made to anyone. I can't think of any help or kindness towards anyone either. I never recall one gesture of love towards my mother. Even birthdays and Christmases were reduced to a few pounds handed over and an entry in his ledger. Never a kiss, a bunch of flowers or a box of chocolates. And never a surprise gift. She sounded almost girlish when I spoke to her after he had died. I'm hardly surprised, but it's a harsh dawn.

● Extracted from The Roy Strong Diaries 1967-1987, by Roy Strong, to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson on May 12, £20.

© 1987 Roy Strong

● Times readers can buy The Roy Strong Diaries for just £18 (the publisher's recommended price) by calling The Times Bookshop on 0800 134 459.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

MARE ST, LONDON E8 1SA
(Charity Reg. No. 202223)

Since 1965 we have shared the grief and eased the pain of countless suffering souls. Last year alone 900 found peace with the help of your vital gifts. Most of them died of cancer - but so seriously that you would hardly know. Your concern is as encouraging as your generosity and we thank you for your inspiring trust.

St. Joseph's

Mercedes OWNERS

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM £170

Quality Rewarded by Low Insurance Costs for Mercedes

Tel: 0115 920 3220 NOW!

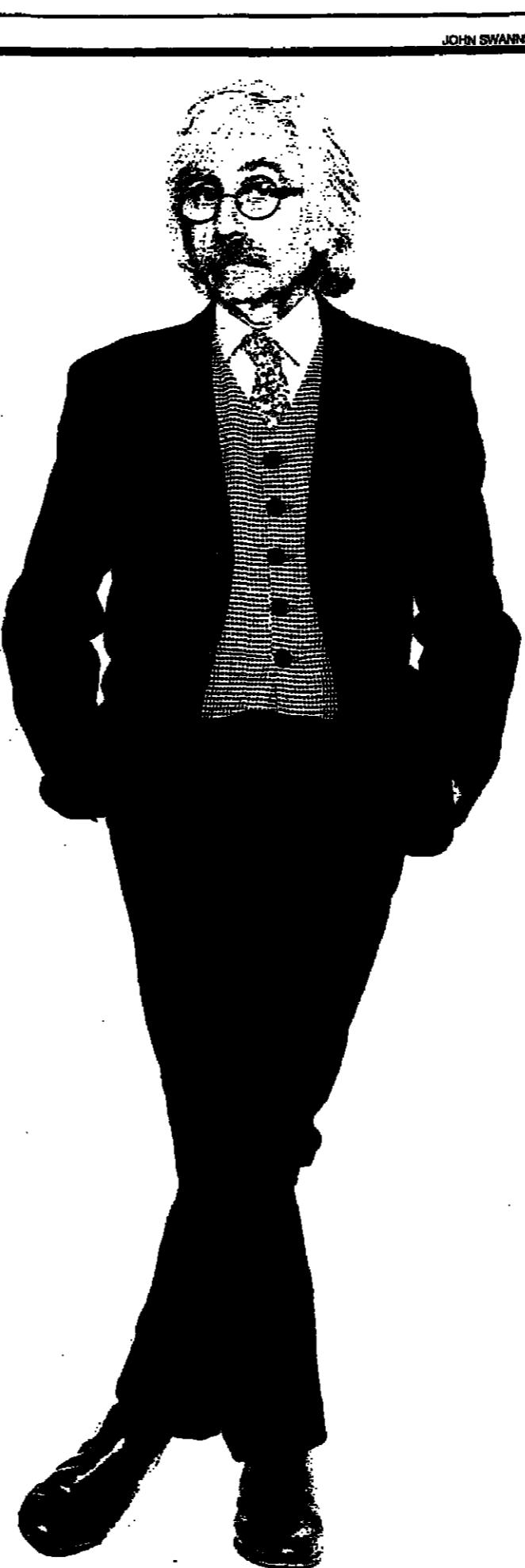
or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on 0345 123 1111

Ask for a quote on the Internet: <http://www.hhh.co.uk>

Hill House Hammond

Over 250 Branches Nationwide

● Times readers can buy The Roy Strong Diaries for just £18 (the publisher's recommended price) by calling The Times Bookshop on 0800 134 459.



Tranquil and secure with Julia

MICHAEL LEWARD



Getting married to Julia in July 1971

July 1971

At this point my diary really does falter, for I was on the lead-up to July 21 when I proposed to Julia in St James's Park after having taken her to a perfectly awful film of King Lear. From then on, and with all the machinations to achieve a wholly private wedding, everything else went out of my mind. What happened can only be caught in retrospect.

September 5, 1979. To Jan van Dorsten

Next Monday we will have been married eight years and my only regret is that it were not longer. We wish you both [Jan van Dorsten] had just married for the third time! all the loving happiness that we have had and have every day together, all the eating together, the cooking, the washing-up, the planting and weeding, the shopping, the working, the everything — it is the most precious thing ever to be caught in retrospect.

September 9, 1971. Letter to Jan van Dorsten [a Dutch friend]

By the time that this reaches you it will have happened. I will have eloped with Julia Trevelyan Oman! Unbeknown to practically everyone, to parents especially, I asked Julia to marry me on July 21. I cannot tell you how thrilled and happy I am about it all... No one knows. It has been a vast operation doing it so [that] no one does, and very romantic. In the church at Wilmcote, near Stratford-upon-Avon, lies locked in the safe a huge special licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Gerard Irvine, a very good friend, is marrying us and David Hunt, his curate, is my best man — the old lady sacristan of 91, sworn to secrecy, is witness.

May 6, 1972. To Jan van Dorsten

We work hard and economise for the reason that we have seen the house of our dreams in Northamptonshire. We

have unfortunately fallen in love with it and are quite obsessed, which is fatal because it is expensive, but we have decided that we would rather live as decayed gentlefolk in grandeur than in bijou smartness in Brighton.

September 5, 1979. To Jan van Dorsten

Next Monday we will have been married eight years and my only regret is that it were not longer. We wish you both [Jan van Dorsten] had just

married for the third time! all the loving happiness that we have had and have every day together, all the eating together, the cooking, the washing-up, the planting and weeding, the shopping, the working, the everything — it is the most precious thing ever to be caught in retrospect.

1996. Postscript

... On the other side of the house Julia, I know, will be at her drawing board, our two cats curled up in nests close to her. We will meet at lunch, something always to look forward to... everywhere there are photographs of Julia and of our cats, both past and present. Julia happy picnicking at Glyndebourne. Julia peering through the branches of an apple tree laden with fruit. Julia doing her patchwork or embracing a cat. Outside spreads that paradise which we created together, the garden. I feel tranquil and secure. Can anyone ask for more?

What will IT COST YOU to PUT OFF starting a PENSION plan?

£19,000

Based on a 25 year contribution of £1,000 a month until retirement at age 65

The longer you leave it, the harder it could become to build up a decent pension fund. Don't lose out — start the ball rolling today with a simple, no-obligation call to Legal & General

on 0500 65 65 65.

● Start from £50 a month

● 2-year satisfaction guarantee

● Low charges increase your pension's potential

● Portable from job to job

● Flexible contributions

● Payment holidays*

Legal & General
TRUST IN A PENSION

Please send me a personal illustration and information pack on the Legal & General Personal Pension Plan.

B10/DL04

Title: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other) _____ Forename: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Are you: Self-employed Employed Unemployed

I plan to retire at: _____ (to 75)

Date of birth: / /

I am/am not currently in an employer's pension scheme:

Initial contribution (Gross): £ _____ per month (min. £50)

Value as appropriate: £ _____ per annum (min. £500)

Income: £ _____ p.a.

£ _____ single (min. £2,000)

Please post to: Legal & General Pension Plan, FREEPOST (GPO1000), Cardiff CF1 1YF.

For further information on our products: <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

Take the first steps to starting your pension now!

0500 65 65 65

8am – 8pm weekdays, 9am – 5pm weekends

Call from quoting reference: B10/DL04

or talk to your financial adviser

For more information on our products: <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

*Projections based on an investment return of 6%. All insurance companies use the same rate of growth for illustrations but charges vary. These figures are only examples and are not subject to what you get back depends on how your investment grows. Life insurance will reduce what you could buy in the future with the amount shown. Subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. Please note that Legal & General is part of the Prudential Group of companies. This advertisement may only be of interest to you if you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us. Legal & General and its Group of companies are regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Legal & General is a registered trade name and is a registered trademark. Legal & General and its Group of companies are registered in England and Wales. Writings, terms and conditions are available on request. Legal & General Direct Limited, Registered in England No. 2702882, Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 7DZ.

Britain's blind eye to inhumanity

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, shows how to put war criminals on trial

Dusko Tadic is no Herrmann Goering. He had no political power, and not even a military uniform — he was a vicious hoodlum allowed to rampage through prisoner-of-war camps. His conviction at The Hague yesterday for "crimes against humanity" scarcely begins to fulfil the promise of Nuremberg. That historic achievement owed much to Britain and the 1945 Labour Government. The new Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, may thus take the opportunity, rejected by his Tory predecessors, to give this nation once again a leading role in the enforcement of human rights.

The difficulties faced by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia have not been helped by Britain, which has not contributed to the tribunal's trust fund. Much of the work is underwritten by America and Holland. Britain has done little more than pay the salary of four investigators and provide some equipment. More seriously, the British Government has declined to provide war-crimes evidence believed by prosecutors to have been intercepted at GCHQ. More seriously still, the Government has refused to order British troops in Bosnia to arrest the Bosnian Serbs indicted for war crimes by the Hague tribunal. The Dayton directive "to arrest if encountered" has been translated as "avoid encountering at all costs".

This is the sorry way in which the last Government carried the torch of Nuremberg. That trial is celebrated because for one brief moment the international community allowed law to rule over diplomatic expediency. That it succeeded in providing a fair trial, completed within a year, for the Nazi leaders was in large measure due to the British judges and the British prosecution team, led by Labour's Attorney-General Hartley Shawcross.

In the aftermath of Nuremberg, the UN declared in favour of a permanent international criminal court — a proposal revived in 1992 as a diplomatic fig-leaf to cover its embarrassment at the failure to prevent genocide in the former Yugoslavia and, the following year, in Rwanda. This has led to its "showpiece" tribunal in The Hague, with one conviction (of Tadic) after four years, and the disastrously mismanaged Rwanda tribunal in Arusha, which has not even commenced its first trial.

The UN's basic mistake was to opt for full-blooded adversarial proceedings akin to American jury trials. It was beguiled by the memory of Nuremberg, forgetting just how simple that case was to prosecute, in a defeated country with defendants safely under lock and key and all the documentary evidence available.

The Hague tribunal has had to operate thousands of miles from the scene of the crimes, with witnesses now scattered across the world and with no

"I agree with you," Alton disagrees profoundly and blames Paddy for "cossing up for a Lib-Lab pact in carpet slippers".

Stranded

JUST THREE days into a Labour Government, one of the bastions of old England has allowed standards to fall. For the first time in living memory Simpson's-in-the-

Strand was unable to produce Havana cigars.

Luncheon guests at the finest roaster of British beef were dumbfounded yesterday when presented with a humidor which contained only Dominican cigars.

Simpson's blamed a hiccup in supply, but there are suspicions of political correctness creeping in here, bearing the stamp of Ramon "Rayon Pajamas" Pajares, general manager of the Savoy Group and an active non-smoker.

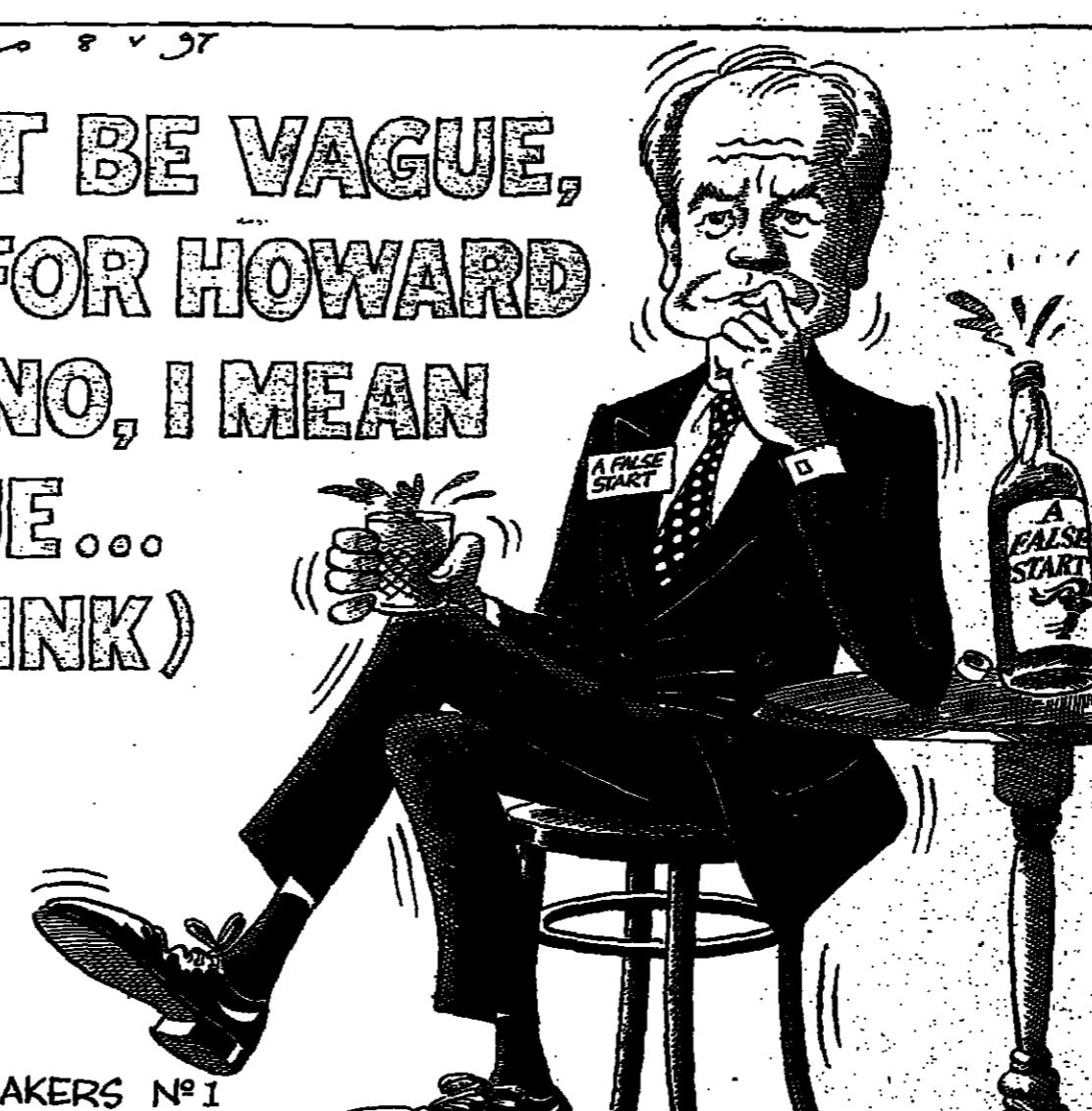
• The Labour Party's parliamentary unity was given its first jolt yesterday, before Tony Blair even had a chance to demand that his MPs speak with one voice. As John Prescott ambled to the rostrum in Church House in Westminster, where the party gathered for the first time, MPs clapped, but not quite as one. Clare Short resolute-

"I see William Hague has thrown his hat in the ring"

Peter Brookes 8-97

**DON'T BE VAGUE,
ASK FOR HOWARD
ER... NO, I MEAN
HAGUE...
(I THINK)**

TORY DECISION MAKERS No 1



Don't bank on the Bank

Gordon Brown has gone back to a pre-war system. He may be right, but the euro threatens its stability

In 1946 a Labour Chancellor, Hugh Dalton, nationalised the Bank of England and transferred control of monetary policy and interest rates to the Treasury. This reflected the Labour Party's belief that the independent Bank's deflationary policies in the 1920s and early 1930s had caused the high unemployment of the inter-war period. In 1967, another Labour Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has restored control of monetary policy to the Bank, albeit subject to an inflation target fixed by the Government. This reflects the new Labour Party's belief that governments cannot be trusted with monetary policy, but will use it for political purposes. The pound has in fact depreciated by more than 95 per cent since 1946.

Neither Chancellor seems right. Independent central banks in the United States and Britain did follow the disastrous monetary policies which led to the 1929 crash and the slump of the early 1930s. Democratic politicians do have an inflationary record; it is easier to inflate than to maintain monetary discipline. All that can be said is that politicians usually make their mistakes on the inflationary side and bankers on the deflationary. Discretion may not be enough: the great American economist Irving Fisher thought that a predictable and largely automatic system of price stabilisation was required.

On December 18, 1922, Fisher testified before the Committee on Banking and Currency of the House of Representatives in support of the Goldsmiths Bill "to stabilise the purchasing power of money". The Bill contained all the essential features of his own "compensated dollar" plan, under which the gold content of the dollar would be varied automatically to keep it a constant purchasing power.

He told the committee: "The Federal Reserve Act has stopped panics, but it has not stopped crises. We have been in the last 18 months through the severest crisis that the United States has ever passed through. That would have been avoided if we had had a stable dollar... These business cycles which pass through periods of crisis, depression, liquidation, recovery and so on are at bottom chiefly changes in the purchasing power of the dollar... If you stabilise the dollar, you stabilise business... The final result of inflation is a lowering of production. The same is true of

deflation. The average man is the victim either way." Irving Fisher's own "compensated dollar" scheme came to nothing. Whether it would have worked as a transition from the Gold Exchange standard cannot be known. It would probably have been less damaging than what happened. It might even have saved the world from the slump and therefore from the rise of Hitler and the Second World War.

The idea of automatic rules to stabilise currencies did not originate with Irving Fisher; he was himself fascinated by it as he was history. There

In 1911, Maynard Keynes, then a young Cambridge don, was fascinated by Irving Fisher's monetary theory, which he always referred to with respect. He wrote about the Roman Julius Caesar, who wrote about 200 AD.

In 1911, Maynard Keynes, then a young Cambridge don, was fascinated by Irving Fisher's monetary theory, which he always referred to with respect. He wrote

Fisher an important letter. "The question of currency reform stands now in a very different position from that in which it stood a dozen years ago. On the one hand the general use of index numbers for the measurement of change in the cost of

living has been widely extended, and the public belief in this method greatly developed. On the other hand, the establishment of the Gold Exchange standard by India and its violent adoption by numerous other countries, have demonstrated that a truly scientific reform can supply a firm and stable basis to the currency

... A proposal for some combination of the Gold Exchange standard with a tabular standard has, therefore, an amount of practical experience behind it, which did not exist... It is important therefore that the consideration of an organised currency should not be left untouched until the existing standard has begun to involve all countries alike in manifest calamities."

As so often, Keynes's insights, which are sometimes superior to the theories he developed from them, raise most interesting questions. The great virtue of the Gold Exchange

standard is, as of the earlier Victorian gold standard, was its combination of stability and universality. Gold was a world currency, or the standard for the world currencies. When we lost the gold standard, we lost this universality.

What Gordon Brown has done is to reintroduce an independent discretionary system on a local basis. It has the merit of being related to the movement of prices, but the defect of being arbitrary. Economists going back to David Ricardo have concluded that such a discretionary monetary policy will always be abused, whether by governments or by the central bank.

In 1946 this independent central bank system was thought to have failed completely in Britain, but now it is thought that the governmental system which replaced it has failed.

Yet this is precisely the kind of question that needs to be asked. Even the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, speaks of the need for "proper parliamentary scrutiny and proper public debate" when it comes to considering the referendum Bill and then the White Paper on a Scottish parliament which is promised for the summer. The order with which all this will be done is, as Tam Dalyell has pointed out, the wrong way round: first there will be a short Bill to allow the referendum to take place, then a White Paper setting out the details of the legislation, then finally, only after the referendum, the Bill itself.

William Rees-Mogg

system, as of the earlier Victorian gold standard, was its combination of stability and universality. Gold was a world currency, or the standard for the world currencies. When we lost the gold standard, we lost this universality.

What Gordon Brown has done is to reintroduce an independent discretionary system on a local basis. It has the merit of being related to the movement of prices, but the defect of being arbitrary. Economists going back to David Ricardo have concluded that such a discretionary monetary policy will always be abused, whether by governments or by the central bank.

In 1946 this independent central bank system was thought to have failed completely in Britain, but now it is thought that the governmental system which replaced it has failed.

Yet this is precisely the kind of question that needs to be asked. Even the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, speaks of the need for "proper parliamentary scrutiny and proper public debate" when it comes to considering the referendum Bill and then the White Paper on a Scottish parliament which is promised for the summer. The order with which all this will be done is, as Tam Dalyell has pointed out, the wrong way round: first there will be a short Bill to allow the referendum to take place, then a White Paper setting out the details of the legislation, then finally, only after the referendum, the Bill itself.

William Rees-Mogg

The proposed European monetary union is also a discretionary system; also in the hands of central bankers, also local, though for a larger region. If, like the Indian currency reform of 1993, the euro related to a stable external policy, it might be reasonably stable itself. But the record of unanchored discretionary systems of this kind is that they are not stable, even in the hands of competent central bankers. The euro will also lack the political foundation that the individual European currencies enjoy. It will not be built on a democratic basis.

Even in 1911, when currencies were stable and the world was at peace, Maynard Keynes had this far-sighted foreboding that the existing standard might "involve all countries alike in manifest calamities". Irving Fisher had similar fears. In 1933 he wrote: "I have a strong conviction that these two economic maladies, the debt disease and the price-level disease (or dollar disease) are, in the great booms and depressions, more important causes than all others put together." He even thought that the 1930s slump was so far the result of mistakes in Federal Reserve policies that it would not have occurred "had Governor Strong of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York lived, or had his policies been pursued consistently after his death".

The independence of the Bank of England may prove somewhat wiser than the independence of a Chancellor of the Exchequer, but in discretion it cannot be said to be open to dangerous errors.

Will ye no come back again?

Magnus Linklater
on the gap left by
the Scots Tories

As ever, P.G.Wodehouse put it best: "His whole attitude re-called irresistibly to mind that of some assiduous hound who will persist in laying a dead rat on the drawing-room carpet, though repeatedly apprised by word and gesture that the market for same is sluggish or even non-existent."

The Tory hound has been instructed, in no uncertain terms, to go and hunt for something better. The dead man lies on the carpet has been rejected. He still has that puzzled, chastened look on his face, but the light is beginning to dawn. He heads off, nose down, into the undergrowth. He may be gone for some time — and who knows what he may return with. In any event, most people are far too entranced with the top dogs who have replaced him to pay much attention. They are absorbed in the sheer novelty of new faces, new policies, the extraordinary sight of a Foreign Secretary saying Yes to Europe, a Chancellor handing over power to the Bank of England, and a sports minister in jeans.

It is this period of innocence that makes the business of opposition so thankless. The 165 Conservative MPs who huddle onto the Commons benches will feel not just outnumbered by the 419 Labour Members opposite (to say nothing of the 46 Liberal Democrats), but will be morally disabled as well. They will find it hard to mount a coherent criticism of the Government's decisions. Their principles will be dismissed as posturing; their objections derided as the caviling of yesterday's men. Of nothing is that more true than of the Scottish measures that will dominate the first term of this administration. A major reform of the constitution will proceed through the House with not a single Tory MP in the country most affected. The latest name to emerge from south of the border as a possible Shadow Secretary is that of Eric Forth. It is not hard to imagine the reception that will be accorded to the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst when he first rises to question the limits of a Scottish Parliament in determining health policy in Motherwell.

Yet this is precisely the kind of question that needs to be asked. Even the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, speaks of the need for "proper parliamentary scrutiny and proper public debate" when it comes to considering the referendum Bill and then the White Paper on a Scottish parliament which is promised for the summer. The order with which all this will be done is, as Tam Dalyell has pointed out, the wrong way round: first there will be a short Bill to allow the referendum to take place, then a White Paper setting out the details of the legislation, then finally, only after the referendum, the Bill itself.

Scots will therefore be voting on measures that have not yet been drafted. The White Paper needs the most rigorous examination, because it will be the first time voters see the small print of their future contract with Westminster. Unless someone is ready to point out the pitfalls, they will not have access to the kind of information they need to make a proper choice. It is no good looking for robust opposition to the Liberal Democrats or the Scottish Nationalists. The former are co-founders with Labour of the constitutional convention"; the latter have only six members.

Meanwhile, Tories in Scotland have to decide on their own position if they are to have any role. The party has to pull back from the extreme anti-devolution stance of the former Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth. To retain credibility it cannot be seen to be doing so hastily; its present Chairman, Annabel Goldie, has already been criticised for trying to force the pace. Its best course of action would be to spend the summer examining the legislation as objectively as possible, pointing out anomalies in the White Paper without opposing its proposals root and branch, then standing back to allow the Scots to take their own decision. If they vote yes, as they are likely to do, the Scottish Tories can then perform a "decorous" U-turn, support the moves towards a Scottish parliament, and campaign for election to it as soon as possible.

Long before then, unfortunately, there will have to be some bloodletting. Recriminations have already broken out over the way the party's former Chairman, Sir Michael Hirst, was forced to resign by members of his own organisation shortly before the election campaign. The timing and the ruthlessness with which the deed was done left deep wounds, which are only now being painfully probed. While that is going on, the chances of a coherent and united approach are remote.

So it is good to be able to report that at least two Scottish think-tanks, one formed by the Scottish Council Development and Industry in memory of the late John Smith, are taking shape. Ideally, they will explore the reform proposals in detail, and will prompt hard questions about its weaknesses. They may not be able to do so in the traditional parliamentary style, but until the Tory hound has returned from its snuffing in the undergrowth, someone else will have to do the retrieving.

Cross lord

THE first post-electoral detection is on the cards. David Alton, the moral crusader and former Liberal Democrat MP who was given a peerage in John Major's last honours list, is to abandon his party to become a crossbencher in the Upper House.

Alton was reluctant to comment on his plans yesterday, but the Liberal Democrats, still drunk with the number of seats they gained last Thursday, expect him to leave them — and appear to care not a hoot. "He has been seriously advised from the Lib Dems for some time," says a party spokesman. "He never came to any meetings."

Alton upset the party's chiselled leader, Paddy Ashdown, earlier this year when he suggested that "talk of a place at the Cabinet table for Paddy would end in tears... before surrendering the independence of his party for the trappings of ministerial office, he needs to ask himself some tough questions about what will be gained and what will be lost".

In response, Paddy adopted a moral tone: "Surely to God we can now find a system of politics in this country where if we agree with another party we're prepared to say,

"I agree with you," Alton disagrees profoundly and blames Paddy for "cossing up for a Lib-Lab pact in carpet slippers".

Stranded

JUST THREE days into a Labour Government, one of the bastions of old England has allowed standards to fall. For the first time in living memory Simpson's-in-the-

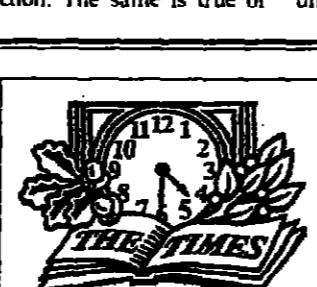
Strand was unable to produce Havana cigars.

Luncheon guests at the finest roaster of British beef were dumbfounded yesterday when presented with a humidor which contained only Dominican cigars.

Simpson's blamed a hiccup in supply, but there are suspicions of political correctness creeping in here, bearing the stamp of Ramon "Rayon Pajamas" Pajares, general manager of the Savoy Group and an active non-smoker.

• The Labour Party's parliamentary unity was given its first jolt yesterday, before Tony Blair even had a chance to demand that his MPs speak with one voice. As John Prescott ambled to the rostrum in Westminster, where the party gathered for the first time, MPs clapped, but not quite as one. Clare Short resolute-

"I see William Hague has thrown his hat in the ring"



I refused to applaud. She and Prescott used to be good friends, but fell out when she was sacked from her shadow transport job.

Manor born

THERE will soon be a new addition to Prince William's house at Eton. Parents of boys in Manor House are clubbing together to sponsor a bust of Nigel Jiques, the last housemaster, to stand on the main staircase. Jiques, an classicist OE, ran Manor House from the late 1970s until the early 1990s. Under him it was nursery for Tory scions, peppered with Douglas-Homes, Hurdles and Channons.

Already, busts of St Nicholas, Henry VI and housemasters from the late 19th century stand on the staircase posts. Jiques's gleaming pate and black-rimmed spectacles above an immaculate bow-tie will make an admirable target for ping-pong balls.

Sincerely

FIFTY years of British variety will be on parade at Golders Green Crematorium on Friday, with the back-to-back funerals of Margery Manners and Hughie Green. Manners, who vowed 'em at the East Ham Palace in London



Margery and Hughie variety at Golders Green



throughout the Fifties, is booked in for 2.30pm, and Hughie is due in at 4pm. A service usually takes just over an hour, without taking into account the extra hugging and reminiscences at old hoofer's funerals. Many of Miss Manners' mourners may well stay seated for

P.H.S.



THE SCOTTISH VOTE

Devolution needs constructive opposition

So impatient were Scots for change that they could not wait until the autumn to show what they thought of the Tories and their inflexible opposition to devolution. On election day, they swept the Conservatives from every cranny of the nation in favour of parties that, in one form or another, supported greater autonomy. With no MPs at Westminster, the Scottish Conservative Party now faces a crisis of identity: it is riven with internal recriminations, anxious whether it should break away from Central Office in London and uncertain how or whether to oppose Labour's constitutional reforms.

Yet precisely because of Labour's enormous majority, the proposals must be opposed. Scots deserve at least to hear both sides of the argument during their referendum campaign. And once the referendum has been held and — as seems overwhelmingly likely — the principle of devolution accepted, there must be constructive debate about the details. It is a pity that the scrutiny will not come before the referendum. For the design of the legislation may determine whether the establishment of a Scottish parliament succeeds.

On Monday, Donald Dewar, the new Scottish Secretary, encouraged constructive criticism of Labour's plans "that is part of the process and I would certainly want that to be done". But he would not promise that the legislation will, as convention dictates, be taken on the floor of the House of Commons rather than in committee. Indeed the new MP for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, Rosemary McKenna, was ominous in her words: "With the majority we have everything has changed. Tony Blair will not be bound by convention."

It is when majority governments hold the unchecked power of elective dictatorship that conventions are most necessary. Mr Blair may well have enough MPs to pass laws requiring the slaughter of the first-born, but that makes constructive opposition of legislation all the more vital. If he ignores

convention and bulldozes devolution through Parliament, he will be giving notice that the "new" politics are even more arrogant and unaccountable than the old.

The verdict that the Scots gave on May 1 was for devolution within the Union. Although the SNP won more seats, its vote hardly rose. The clear majority was for the Labour and Liberal Democrat case that a Scottish parliament would assuage the nation's resentment and bind it more closely into the United Kingdom. Yet a badly designed Scottish parliament could give succour to the nationalists and boost demands for independence. That is why it is critical that the devolution plans work well.

Some elements in the proposals are sensible. It is good, for example, to use proportional representation so that minority parties, such as the Conservatives, win seats and so that Labour does not have a stranglehold over the parliament. But there are flaws too which have to be addressed.

Tax-raising powers are probably necessary to prevent the assembly being dismissed as meaningless by nationalists.

The arbitrary 3p variation, however, may well ferment disenchantment. And Mr Blair's insistence that Labour members will not support a tax rise may encourage Scots to turn to the SNP in frustration. A promise made in the course of an election campaign to deflect Tory "tartan tax" charges may come back to haunt him, particularly if his own MPs threaten to rebel against an edict handed down from Westminster.

But most serious is still the West Lothian question. If unaddressed, this has the potential to rouse English nationalism against the Scots. There must be a quid pro quo for Scottish devolution. Having won his huge majority, Mr Blair can afford to reduce the number of Scottish MPs. And he should look again at public expenditure to ensure that the extra 21 per cent that Scots enjoy over the English really is justified by geography and social need.

Yours faithfully,
EVAN D. L. PRICE.
32 Hampstead Grove, NW3.
May 6.

UNUSUAL CHANNELS

Broadcasters should let their programmes do the talking

Michael Jackson, the newly-appointed chief executive of Channel 4, has shown himself as fickle as the finger of a multi-channel surfer and as pointedly rude as the raised digit of a Sicilian. He has arrived at his new employers full of bile for his old. Fired and groomed by the BBC until he became its Director of Television, he chose to accompany the announcement of his defection with an attack on the Corporation for neglecting the young, women and those outside the South-East. Gigolos show more loyalty to their past patrons than Mr Jackson has displayed. How much sharper than the serpent's tooth are the words of this ungrateful young controller.

Yet Mr Jackson is not so much guilty of filial impurity as of shame at his own past. Since Mr Jackson has been the architect of the current BBC schedule his words sound uncannily like the cries of a male, middle-aged metropolitan Caliban catching sight of his reflection on the small screen. They also set another unhappy precedent for a society where adding insult to injury is a practice sharply on the increase.

In politics, departures have been made worse by the manner of some goings. The trauma of leaving the ERM was compounded by the insouciance of ministers who sang in the bath while companies went down the plughole. The defection of Emma Nicholson let loose twin torrents of vitriol from Ms Nicholson and her former colleagues. The innocent observer was left to wonder why, if she thought so little of this Government, she had tried so hard to join it, and why, if her party thought so ill of her, it

had tried to get her into Parliament. Politicians may be faithless, but more fickle by far are the world's unacknowledged legislators. Writers could teach Ms Nicholson and Mr Jackson a great deal about retrospective rebusishing. The publishers and agents who turn coffee-stained manuscripts into minor classics often find themselves, like servants in Samuel Richardson, cast aside and scorned while the talent that they fed moves on. It is unforgivable, but also understandable. Psychologists will recognise the classic response of the betrayer on being unmasked — to blame the betrayed for not being good enough to prevent such straying.

Fortunately, there are still some fields of public life where the hard blow of departure is softened with kind words. When sportsmen leave one team for another, it is customarily with thanks for the opportunities they have been offered with their old outfit. Even those, like Paul Gascoigne, whose charm is unschooled rather than old school have always paid tribute to their former teammates.

It is expected that most players will be gentlemen but even in fashion, a world where bitchiness is as de rigueur as Blahnik, it still isn't done to stick the stiletto into the organisation one is leaving. In the recent game of couture leapfrog in Paris, British designers stepped into each others' loafers with sincere expressions of respect. Genius knows it need not diminish others to flourish itself. Mr Jackson, a talented man of television, should let his programmes, and the ratings, do the talking.

PRIDE OF THE PROM

The BBC Proms are a model of how all concert series should be

Nobody begrimed the BBC a triumphalist note yesterday as it fanfare its plans for the 1997 Proms in the Albert Hall. Last year's season attracted record crowds to a record number of concerts. They included such novelties as a Junior Prom and the "Prom in the Park", an event which confounded the sceptics by attracting 26,000 people to hear orchestral music in Hyde Park on a cold September evening.

This year Nicholas Kenyon, the Proms director, promises that "the world's greatest music festival" will spread "wider still and wider". That sounds boastful, but his claim is well supported by the season he has unveiled. At a time when classical concerts are struggling to recruit new audiences, the Proms continue to attract thousands of young music-lovers by virtue of their remarkably low ticket prices and the huge span of music covered every summer.

A gallery season-ticket to all 73 Proms this season costs just £95 — or rather less than the price of one stalls seat for an average night at Covent Garden. That season ticket opens a window on a world of infinite musical variety and splendour: from the sacred glories of Tudor motets to the decadent satire of Kurt Weill; from the profundity of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* to a quaintly nostalgic revival of Frank Zappa's *The Yellow Shark*.

The senior statesmen of the classical world — Solti, Haitink, Brendel, Marinier — all play their part. But so do a host of bright new figures, eager to make their

name in concertos renowned worldwide. American minimalists, Georgian folk-singers, big bands, close-harmony crooners and cathedral choirs mingle with venerable orchestras from Leipzig and Amsterdam, Budapest and St Petersburg. There will be 30 first performances, but also anniversary celebrations of Schubert, Brahms and Mendelssohn. Pierre Boulez is in, but so is Cleo Laine.

Ultimately, however, it is not the performers who make the Proms special. It is the audience. Last year Kurt Masur, conductor of the New York Philharmonic, was asked how musical life in New York could be improved. "I wish we could steal the Proms from London," he replied. "The atmosphere is like nothing else." That is the Proms' defining quality. Prommers queue for hours each day, then stand throughout the concert, packed tightly into a sweltering arena. Yet physical discomfort is forgotten when the music starts. No audience is quieter or more absorbed; no cheer more thrilling than the roar which rises from the Prommers after some tremendous symphony.

More than a century after the conductor Sir Henry Wood launched his cheap concert seasons for ordinary people, the classical music world still has not overturned the elitist image which troubled that visionary Victorian. "Old Timber" would have been saddened by that. But the fact that his Proms are still held up as a model of how all concert series should be, all the time, would surely have made him proud.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Trade and popular consent within European Union

From Mr E. D. L. Price

Sir, If I were the leader of a European nation which was in, or just recovering from, a disastrous recession, and I was suddenly given the opportunity to impose higher employment costs on another European nation that had consistently lower employment costs, I would gleefully seize that opportunity with both hands and declare that it was "in the interests of European unity". In reality I would be defending my own nation's interests and redressing perceived competitive advantages.

The UK has some of the lowest non-wage costs of employment in Europe. The social chapter is designed to "harmonise" the social standards throughout the EU. I accept that only three measures have been passed under this chapter, but it would be naive for the UK Government to expect that it will be able to prevent other EU nations from trying to impose higher non-wage costs on UK employers using majority voting.

Rather than sign up to the social chapter now, the Government would be better advised to declare that it would implement all those provisions passed under the social chapter for the other 14 nations while reserving the right to use the "opt-out", if that became necessary.

If, after a period of time, the social chapter had only been used in a genuine attempt to protect social standards, rather than in an attempt to address perceived competitive advantages, then, using full signature to that chapter as a bargaining chip, the UK Government would be in a strong position to persuade the other EU nations to reform the disastrous agricultural and/or fisheries policies.

Yours sincerely,
EVAN D. L. PRICE.
32 Hampstead Grove, NW3.
May 6.

From Mr Tim Butler

Sir, So, just four days into the new Government and the EU is telling us that it is "not happy with the Government's pledge" to cut VAT on domestic fuel (report, May 7). What is the point of holding elections if the winners can't do what they've promised to do?

May I suggest we either abolish elections altogether and hope that Mr Santer and his successors will always be benign rulers, or we hold a referendum about who governs us. At least then we will know who actually is the government — the one we elect, or the one we can't.

Yours sincerely,
TIM BUTLER.
87 High Street,
Markgate, Hertfordshire.
May 7.

One-nation state?

From the Reverend Dr T. Bradshaw

Sir, Does the domination of the major offices of State by one nationality square with new Labour's politically correct value system, and is it not a matter for the Commission for Racial Equality to investigate?

Yours faithfully,
TOM BRADSHAW,
54 St Giles, Oxford.
May 6.

Lib-Dem legacy

From Professor B. K. Ridley, FRS

Sir, While it is perfectly understandable that the people should return Labour with a thumping majority after five years of unstimulating Tory rule, it is incomprehensible that so many voted Lib-Dem, whose principal distinguishing feature in power, albeit at the local level, is covering the roads with graffiti and bumps.

Yours faithfully,
B. K. RIDLEY,
Michelmas Gate,
Mill Lane, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex.
May 4.

Radio poll

From Dr D. G. Wilson

Sir, My wife has identified a serious deficit in our democratic process. Enriched by the complete change of government effected by the general election, we are nevertheless daily assaulted by the same old presenters on *Today* and *The World at One*.

Could not the BBC arrange for us all to vote for a new team?

Yours faithfully,
TIM WILSON,
9 Banham Close, Cambridge.
May 6.

Against the tide

From Mr Paul McCrudden

Sir, Your results table is wrong (May 3) to claim that there was no Conservative gain at the general election. Stratford-upon-Avon is pleased to be represented by a Conservative MP once again.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL MCCRUDDEN,
1 The Pinfold, Tiddington,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

From the Editor of Intelligence Digest

Sir, Britain has just witnessed an awesome demonstration of democracy at work. An unpopular government, after 18 years in power, has been dismissed in dramatic style.

Whatever the reasons for the verdict, good and not-so-good, logical and not-so-logical, the electorate undeniably had the right to act the way it did. But were the combined peoples of the EU to reach a similar conclusion about the government of the EU, how would they perform a comparable exercise in democratic cleansing?

Yours faithfully,
JOE DE COURCY,
Editor, *Intelligence Digest*,
Intelligence International Ltd.
The Stoneyhill Centre,
Brimpsfield, Gloucestershire.
May 5.

From the Co-Editor of eurofacts

Sir, Sir Roy Denman (letter, May 5) would have us believe that 11 European member states could shortly gain "greater stability, lower interest rates, higher growth" from being in EMU; that from staying out of EMU Britain might seem to be gaining "a competitive advantage" which their tighter discipline forbids"; that there is a danger that our irate partners may find our "wages or taxes dangerously competitive", in which case "they will surcharge our exports (social and fiscal dumping)". Finally, disaster will ensue, with massive disinvestment, lost exports and lost jobs.

This scenario is unconvincing. Regarding EMU it may improve or weaken Britain's prospects: it cannot simultaneously do both. Our wages are already higher than French and Italian wages, and if Sir Roy thinks that our partners are going to break Community law and infringe world trading rules by surcharging their best export market, then his opinion of their morality and their sanity is low indeed.

As for "fiscal dumping", Sir Roy presumably advocates increased British taxation, not for budgetary reasons but to ward off European retaliation. What can be the logic in believing that Britain's competitive economy is so resented by our fellow-Europeans that they will stop at nothing to punish us, to the point of illegality and self-inflicted damage?

Yours faithfully,
K. G. CARSON,
Co-Editor, *eurofacts*,
PO Box 9984, London W12 8WZ.
May 5.

From Lord Mackenzie-Stuart

Sir, The hoary canard that the European Court of Justice is political (letter, May 5) is nonsense. In 16 years I worked at the court with over forty judges and advocates general. The

statistical improbability of such an asorted bunch having a consistent political view is evident.

The European Community is an intensely political concept and its rules are made by politicians. The court's function is to interpret what the politicians have decided. As that very wise Dutch judge, Andre Donner, said to me long ago:

While the Court is political, it occasionally has to remind the Member States of the obligations they have entered into.

As regards Mr John Deas's letter (May 5), I agree that political union without popular consent is not a reliable bulwark against war. I would have thought that the election results in Britain demonstrated that popular consent for the aims of the European Union remained. One can support those aims without endorsing all its activities.

Yours faithfully,
MACKENZIE-STUART
(President, Court of Justice of the European Communities, 1984-85),
Le Gardiel, Graviers,
07140 Les Vans, France.
May 5.

From Mr D. P. Marchessini

Sir, It is quite true that Norway is "an integral part" of the Common Market (it wishes to be) and that it is subject to most of the directives of the European Commission. But, as Dr Neville March Hunnings admits in a parenthesis (letter, April 30), the Norwegians are not bound to the EU as regards agriculture, fisheries and, of course, the single currency.

These are three very important points, and they cannot be dismissed as irrelevant. Furthermore, being a much bigger country than Norway, the UK would undoubtedly be able to negotiate even better terms than Norway has done.

Such a risk cannot be taken. Dr Hunnings also suggests that if we follow the Swiss path by withdrawing completely from the European Union, we would be in the same position as "Brazil or India or Australia or Canada" (he could have added the United States). Well, what is wrong with that? The Swiss continue to trade with the EU, and so do the United States and Canada.

Although we have a trade surplus with the rest of the world, we have a trade deficit with Europe. It is therefore very much in the interest of the EU to continue to trade with us, regardless whether we are members or not. In short, to use Dr Hunnings's phrase, we can certainly have our cake and eat it, too.

Yours faithfully:
D. P. MARCHESINI,
Marchessini & Co. Ltd.,
Kingsbury House,
15/17 King Street, St James's, SW1.
May 1.

Venice faces a possible disaster

From the Chairman of the Venice in Peril Fund

Sir, Just over 30 years ago, on November 4-5, 1966, Venice faced the worst floods, and with them the greatest physical danger, in all its history. The city is now confronted by a new threat, potentially still more catastrophic.

The Italian oil and gas company Agip has applied for government permission to drill for natural gas in the bed of the northern Adriatic. Such further exploitation of the region may well induce serious subsidence, both in and around the Venetian lagoon and beneath Venice itself.

In the past century, owing largely to the rise in sea level and the extraction of water in neighbouring Porto Marghera during the 1950s and 60s, the city has already sunk 21cm: the College of Engineers in the Veneto — who understand the situation as well as anyone alive — believe on the basis of previous experience offshore from Ravenna and in the Po estuary, that the proposed exploitation might eventually cause subsidence of another 30cm which, they rightly maintain, would mean the death of Venice and Chioggia.

The college also challenges the company's claim that any subsidence in the area could be corrected by the injection of sea water. Nowhere in the world has such technology been attempted in similar conditions. In an area as sensitive and vulnerable as the Venetian lagoon, where land and sea already maintain a uniquely delicate balance, any intervention on the scale proposed could trigger off a geological and hydrological chain reaction, the consequences of which are unforeseeable but might easily be disastrous.

Such a risk cannot be taken.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN JULIUS NORWICH.

Chairman.

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY MAY 8 1997

NEWS

Blair bans party foreign funding

■ Foreign funding of political parties is to be banned as part of an anti-sleaze package that will feature in the Queen's Speech next week.

The speech outlining the parliamentary programme, which will be approved by Tony Blair's first Cabinet meeting today, will also pave the way for the outlawing of cigarette advertising and up to 20 other measures ranging from education to devolution..... Page 1

From handbags to hairspray

■ So many purple suits! So much hairspray! The mood teetered between a fashionable charity premiere of a star-studded new show and the headmaster's First Day address. "You are all ambassadors!" declared Tony Blair. Four hundred eager faces looked up in rapture..... Matthew Parris. Page 1

Lord's bans ashes

A century of MCC tradition was stumped out at the hallowed home of cricket when campaigners won a ballot battle to have smoking banned in the Long Room at Lord's..... Page 1

SBS drug charge

A Royal Marine attached to the Special Boat Service, the Navy's equivalent of the SAS, was arrested at the squad's headquarters and charged with taking part in a £10 million cannabis smuggling ring..... Page 1

'Threat' to victim

Raymond Sullivan, a businessman, was offered £100,000 to drop assault charges against the boxer Nigel Benn or become the target of a contract killer. A jury was told for 32 years..... Page 14

Cook's new era

Robin Cook, on his inaugural trip abroad as Foreign Secretary, has a greater right to privacy than members of the Royal Family, most people believe..... Page 4

Fishy technology

Anglers have been banned from using high-tech fish finders after a fishing match competitor was discovered using a miniature echo sounder..... Page 5

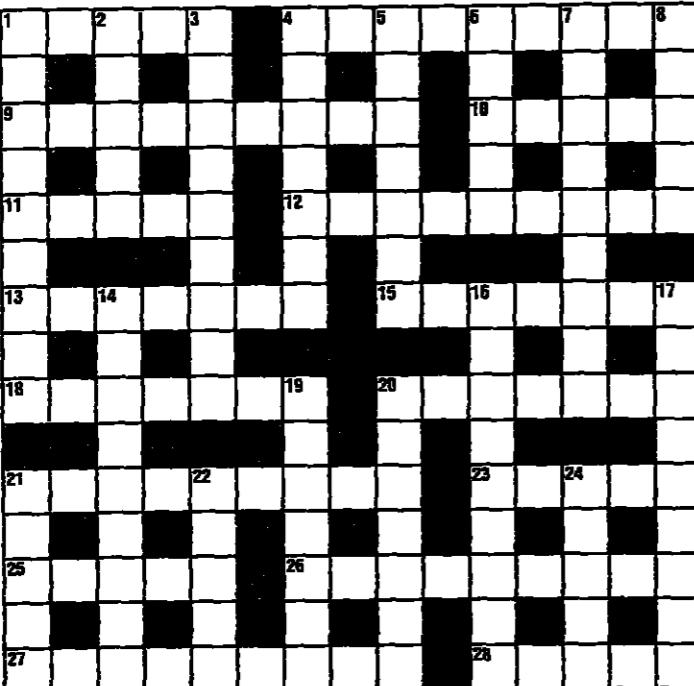
Granny state

Grandmothers are so essential to humans that nature makes women stop having children so they can take on the role, the Royal Society was told..... Page 17

Stowaway sisters survive sea odyssey

■ Two 18-year-old stowaway twin sisters and a Malaysian seaman who were given up for dead after leaping the equivalent of three storeys into the sea from a freighter, are safe in Australia. They swam 20 nautical miles for 40 hours; survived sharks, crocodiles, thirst and hunger, and lived on shellfish for two weeks..... Pages 1, 3

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,474



ACROSS

- There's no time to finish the card-game, pet (5).
- The cabaret is perplexing? In what way? (5,4).
- An obvious trace of brouge (9).
- Produce what's considered, primarily, potential veal? (5).
- Conscious of a disturbance from the passage (5).
- Why inconclusive claim is rubbished as fanciful? (9).
- Posh girl - a bruised one - abandoning husband for a composer? (7).
- Daring entertainer who'd listened to popular single (7).
- Pased on German article about campus suffering setback (7).
- Detectable by radiation, as admitted by pupils? (7).
- Excitedly tuning TV to catch English game (5-2-3).
- Senior chap in uniform, or a sort of suit (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,473

PRESENTIMENT
I M R S A E S M
COMMUNION RUPEE
A E D P T V R T
DETAIL MODERATE
O T M
REMAIN PARDONER
I C H N I E
SPLITNERS ASIDES
S A
EMIGRATE SPLSEN
T N A H P P X A
GREEN ITINERANT
H R G F A G O
LETTERWRITER



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up
of 50% paper material for
UK newspapers in the first
half of 1996

Times Two Crossword, page 48



Martin Bell, the former war correspondent who is now Independent MP for Tatton, outside the Houses of Parliament yesterday

BUSINESS

BP resignation: Sir David Simon has resigned as chairman of BP, the oil giant, to become Labour's Minister for European Trade and Competitiveness..... Page 25

Sainsbury loans: J Sainsbury, the first supermarket to launch its own bank, is to begin offering mortgages and personal loans this summer..... Page 25

Economy slips: Manufacturing output unexpectedly slipped back during March, presenting the Bank of England with a policy dilemma..... Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 Index rose 18.2 points to close at 4537.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped from 100.6 to 100.3 after a fall from \$1.636 to \$1.6355 and from DM2.8202 to DM2.8126.... Page 28

Mobutu leaves: President Mobutu left Zaire for a regional summit with fellow French-speaking presidents, fueling expectations that he would not return to the country he had ruled for 32 years..... Page 14

Cricket's new era

Robin Cook, on his inaugural trip abroad as Foreign Secretary, has a greater right to privacy than members of the Royal Family, most people believe..... Page 4

Middle East gloom

The Israeli Government has been presented with one of its gloomiest reviews in many years on prospects for Middle East peace..... Page 16

Holocaust gold

Germany was able to prolong its war because Switzerland and other neutral nations accepted Nazi gold looted from Holocaust victims, a US study found.. Page 17

Stowaway sisters survive sea odyssey

■ Two 18-year-old stowaway twin sisters and a Malaysian seaman who were given up for dead after leaping the equivalent of three storeys into the sea from a freighter, are safe in Australia. They swam 20 nautical miles for 40 hours; survived sharks, crocodiles, thirst and hunger, and lived on shellfish for two weeks..... Pages 1, 3

SPORT

Football: Paul Ince, the England midfield player who is now with Internazionale of Milan, is weighing up offers from Liverpool and Chelsea..... Page 48

Cricket: The fast-bowling career of David Lawrence, which seemed to have been ended by injury five years ago, resumed in a manner that will raise spirits far beyond Gloucestershire..... Page 48

Rugby union: Martin Bayfield, the Northampton lock, has withdrawn from the England tour to Argentina because of the recurrence of a pelvic condition..... Page 42

Motor rallying: Colin McRae won the Tour of Corsica after starting the fast day in fourth place, 22sec behind Carlos Sainz, of Spain, the leader..... Page 45

Proms preview: From the solemn strains of Beethoven, to jokes from Gilbert and Sullivan and a little jazz with the Dankworts, the 103rd season of the Proms is revealed..... Page 33

Pop duo: At Wembley Arena, Fugees prove once and for all that hip hop acts can project themselves in an arena environment. In Dublin, Nanci Griffith delivers a tour de force..... Page 33

Dramatic diva: Terence McNally's absorbing study of *Maria Callas, Master Class* comes to the West End in a new production starring Patti LuPone..... Page 34

New films: The Czech Oscar-winner *Kolya* arrives in Britain, and *Anaconda* serves up a preposterous 40ft snake..... Page 35

ARTS

Proms preview: From the solemn strains of Beethoven, to jokes from Gilbert and Sullivan and a little jazz with the Dankworts, the 103rd season of the Proms is revealed..... Page 33

Football: Paul Ince, the England midfield player who is now with Internazionale of Milan, is weighing up offers from Liverpool and Chelsea..... Page 48

Cricket: The fast-bowling career of David Lawrence, which seemed to have been ended by injury five years ago, resumed in a manner that will raise spirits far beyond Gloucestershire..... Page 48

Rugby union: Martin Bayfield, the Northampton lock, has withdrawn from the England tour to Argentina because of the recurrence of a pelvic condition..... Page 42

Motor rallying: Colin McRae won the Tour of Corsica after starting the fast day in fourth place, 22sec behind Carlos Sainz, of Spain, the leader..... Page 45

Proms preview: From the solemn strains of Beethoven, to jokes from Gilbert and Sullivan and a little jazz with the Dankworts, the 103rd season of the Proms is revealed..... Page 33

Pop duo: At Wembley Arena, Fugees prove once and for all that hip hop acts can project themselves in an arena environment. In Dublin, Nanci Griffith delivers a tour de force..... Page 33

Dramatic diva: Terence McNally's absorbing study of *Maria Callas, Master Class* comes to the West End in a new production starring Patti LuPone..... Page 34

New films: The Czech Oscar-winner *Kolya* arrives in Britain, and *Anaconda* serves up a preposterous 40ft snake..... Page 35

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP: Are remixes of Michael Jackson and others an unhealthy music business obsession?

■ EDUCATION: As asthma affects more children, a campaign is telling schools how to help pupil sufferers

JUSTIN WILLIAMS

TELEVISION
Preview: Michael Buerk is back with more real-life rescues 999 (BBC). Review: Lynne Truss on *Sharpe*, tush on a big budget..... Page 47

OPINION

The Scottish vote

If Mr Blair ignores convention and bulldozes devolution through Parliament, he will be giving notice that the "new" politics are even more arrogant and unaccountable than the old..... Page 21

Unusual channels

Michael Jackson, a talented man of television, should let his programmes, and the ratings, do the talking..... Page 21

Pride of the Prom

No audience is quieter or more absorbed; no cheer more thrilling than the roar which rises from the Prommers after some tremendous symphony..... Page 21

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

What Gordon Brown has done is to reintroduce an independent discretionary system on a local basis. It has the merit of being related to the movement of prices, but the defect of being arbitrary..... Page 20

JOHN BRYANT

The choice of Tony Banks, the boisterous Chelsea supporter and left-wing MP for Newham North-West, as Minister for Sport is one of the more delightful surprises in Tony Blair's new Labour Government..... Page 46

PETER RIDDELL

After less than a week, rumblings can already be heard in Whitehall, about the activist and highly political style of the new Government..... Page 2

MAGNUS LINKLATER

The order with which the Scottish changes will be made is the wrong way round..... Page 20

TRAVEL

Bargains

A two-week family camping holiday in France, a trip to explore an Icelandic volcano: the best travel bargains..... Page 40

Main attractions

A day out at one of Britain's numerous tourist attractions is proving irresistible to families who want to soak up history and culture as well as be entertained..... Page 41

ENTERTAINMENT

The head of state

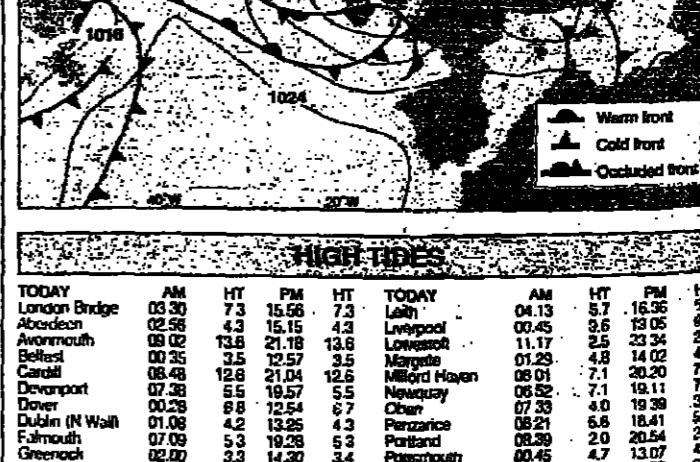
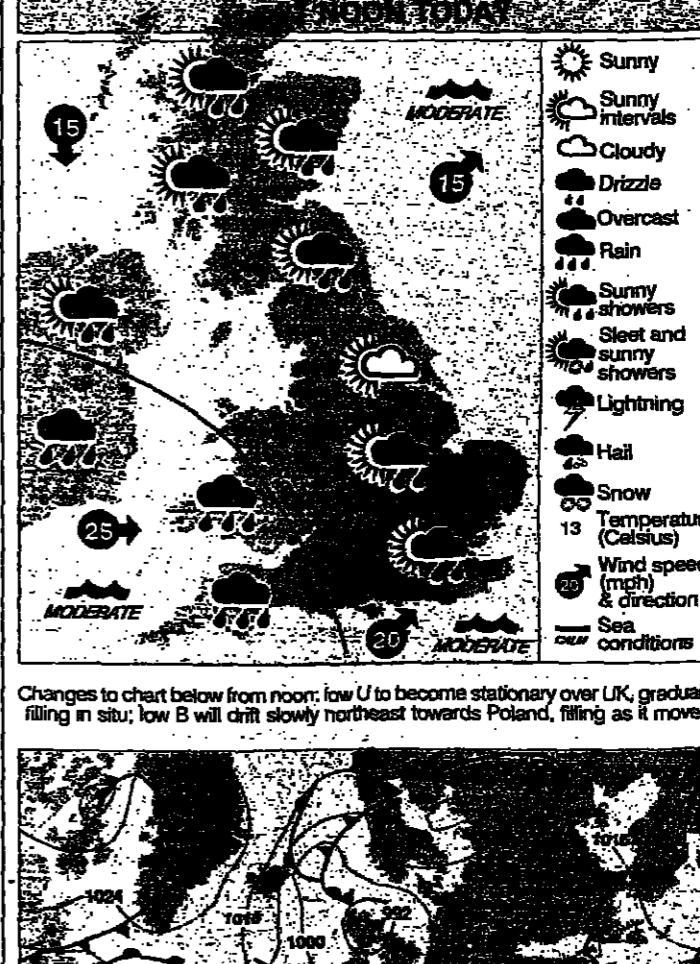
The head of state has found himself with his back up against the wall. One cannot help but notice his embarrassment. Jacques Chirac is caught in a trap created by his dissolving of parliament. He finds himself campaigning on the front line..... *Liberation*

EDITION NUMBER

12, 19, 26, 31, 34, 43; bonus ball 40.

LEISURE

Trade and popular consent within EU: "new threat" for Venice; further thoughts on election; aid for Zaire; British beef; politics and farmers; army cap badges; school inspections..... Page 21



HOURS OF DARKNESS	
Sun rise: 5.20 am	Sun rise: 8.35 pm
Moon sets: 10.20 pm	Moon sets: 6.47 am
First quarter May 14	
London 8.35 pm to 5.16 am	
Bristol 8.45 pm to 5.25 am	
Edinburgh 9.05 pm to 5.35 am	
Belfast 9.25 pm to 5.55 am	
Cardiff 9.45 pm to 5.55 am	
Glasgow 9.55 pm to 5.55 am	
Sheffield 10.05 pm to 5.55 am	
Newcastle 10.15 pm to 5.55 am	
Liverpool 10.25 pm to 5.55 am	
Manchester 10.35 pm to 5.55 am	
Birmingham 10.45 pm to 5.55 am	
Nottingham 10.55 pm to 5.55 am	
Southampton 11.05 pm to 5.55 am	
Plymouth 11.15 pm to 5.55 am	
Exeter 11.25 pm to 5.55 am	
Newquay 11.35 pm to 5.55 am	
Dover 11.45 pm to 5.55 am	
Folkestone 11.55 pm to 5.55 am	
Dartmouth 12.05 pm to 5.55 am	
Penzance 12.15 pm to 5.55 am	
Falmouth 12.25 pm to 5.55 am	

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE
SECTION
TODAY

2

FOCUS

The global range of
the world's
best-known charity
PAGES 39, 39

TRAVEL

A special deal
for the Chelsea
Flower Show
PAGES 40, 41

SPORT

Syd Lawrence back
in the swing
for Gloucestershire
PAGES 42-48

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
46, 47**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MAY 8 1997



Square deal: Sir Ronald Hampel, left, chairman, with Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, yesterday after announcing "a new ICI for a new century"

ICI planning sell-offs to fund £5bn Unilever deal

By OLIVER AUGUST

ICI, the chemicals group, has embarked on a three-year £3 billion disposal programme to finance the £5 billion acquisition of Unilever's speciality chemicals business.

Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, said: "Today's deal creates nothing less than a new ICI for the new century." The acquisition was masterminded by Charles Miller Smith, the chief executive, who spent ten years at Unilever building up the speciality chemicals activities before moving to ICI two years ago. He said the Unilever deal broadened the scope of ICI's

global business, shifting its portfolio towards less cyclical light-end chemicals.

Yesterday's acquisition is the biggest corporate change for ICI since the Zeneca merger five years ago.

The £3 billion disposal programme includes a global offering of its 62.4 per cent stake in ICI Australia, valued at about £1.1 billion based on Tuesday's share price.

The disposals also include a plan to sell the Tioxide pigment business, which is expected to yield about £700 million. Originally, Tioxide was to be floated but ICI is now prepared to consider a trade sale after expressions of interest. The group refused to

name which other operations it intended to sell.

Unilever's speciality chemicals businesses comprise four international units. The biggest is National Starch, a producer of industrial adhesives and resins. The unit had operating profit of about £213 million on sales of £1.56 billion in 1996. James Kennedy, president of National Starch, will join the ICI board.

The other units are Quest International, a fragrance, food ingredient and flavour company based in The Netherlands, which had operating profit of £69 million on sales of £696 million last year; Unichema, a Dutch oleochemicals and nickel catalysts

company, which had a 1996 operating profit of £43 million on sales of £476 million; and Crosfield, based in Britain, a producer of inorganic chemicals with a 1996 operating profit of £32 million on sales of £205 million.

The £5 billion deal is expected to be completed in the summer, conditional on regulatory consent and shareholder approval. Unilever, advised by Lazard Brothers, announced its intention to sell the division in February.

Mr Miller Smith said that ICI first looked at the Unilever division "almost 12 months ago to the week". The acquisition was "a genuinely unique opportunity to change ICI and

create a lot of value". Over an 18-month search for a means to diversify ICI, the Unilever businesses "kept cropping up as the best candidate".

Commenting on the new businesses, Sir Ronald said: "I'd be very disappointed if we don't see a faster sales growth rate than the 6 to 7 per cent per annum seen recently."

ICI is planning further acquisitions but not of a similar size. The character and nature of future acquisitions will be incremental," Mr Miller Smith said. "Certainly in my time as chief executive I doubt there will be another acquisition of this magnitude."

Pennington, page 27

BIB will usher in digital boom

By ERIC REGULY

THE launch of British Interactive Broadcasting will open a market for new digital products worth billions of pounds a year, say electronics makers.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that owns 32.5 per cent of BIB, has placed orders for a million digital set-top boxes worth an estimated £500 million. Viewers will need the boxes to receive BIB's interactive services, such as home banking and shopping, and BSkyB's new digital entertainment and sports channels.

BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. BIB's other shareholders are British Telecom, also with 32.5 per cent, Midland Bank, with 20 per cent, and Matsushita, the Japanese electronics company, with 15 per cent.

The set-top boxes are to be made by Matsushita, Amstrad, Pace Micro Technology and a partnership formed by Hyundai of Korea and Grundig, one of Germany's largest consumer electronics groups.

Koen Van Driel, chairman of Grundig UK, said the creation of BIB and next year's launch of BSkyB's digital channels will trigger the rapid development of widespread digital TVs. In the UK alone, this market "could be worth a few billion pounds" a year, he said.

BSkyB reported pre-tax profits of £215 million, up 21 per cent, in the nine months to March 31, on turnover of £913 million, up 24 per cent.

Sutherland to succeed Simon as BP chairman

By OLIVER AUGUST



Sutherland: interim basis

PETER SUTHERLAND, the former Director-General of Gatt, will succeed Sir David Simon as the chairman of British Petroleum. The appointment is made on an interim basis after Sir David's resignation yesterday to become competition minister in the new Labour Government.

Another senior appointment from industry is due to be confirmed in the next few days when Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News & Media, becomes special advisor to Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade. The unpaid post will take about a day a week of Lord Hollick's time.

There is speculation that Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, may also appoint a special adviser from industry. Among names mentioned have been Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, and Lord Chandos, a merchant banker who sits as a Labour peer.

The set-top boxes are to be made by Matsushita, Amstrad, Pace Micro Technology and a partnership formed by Hyundai of Korea and Grundig, one of Germany's largest consumer electronics groups.

Koen Van Driel, chairman of Grundig UK, said the creation of BIB and next year's launch of BSkyB's digital channels will trigger the rapid development of widespread digital TVs. In the UK alone, this market "could be worth a few billion pounds" a year, he said.

BSkyB reported pre-tax profits of £215 million, up 21 per cent, in the nine months to March 31, on turnover of £913 million, up 24 per cent.

By ROBERT MILLER

A POLICE investigation into alleged corruption over the way in which more than £100 million of taxpayers' money was poured into companies in the South West, that subsequently crashed has been closed with no arrests being made.

The Serious Fraud Office inquiry, Operation Gale, was launched after Rom Data, a failed West Country computer firm received an £850,000 grant, even though the trade department was aware that one of the directors had a troubled financial background.

Output fall catches market out

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

Commissioner with responsibility for competition policy in the 1980s. He was a non-executive director of BP between 1990 and 1993, when he resigned to become Director-General of Gatt and later of the World Trade Organization. He relinquished this post in 1995 and rejoined BP.

Speculation as to who will eventually succeed Mr Sutherland will centre on John Browne, the chief executive. He is said to be the "reformer protégé" of Sir David.

Mr Browne won admiration throughout BP when he successfully restructured the exploration business, which is at the heart of BP's operations. About half the workforce lost their jobs in the restructuring.

It is believed that Mr Browne, if not appointed himself, would reject the hiring of a well-known oil expert, in the vein of Sir David, as chairman.

After Sir David's departure, Mr Browne is the undisputed power at BP.

Pennington, page 27

behalf to secure some funding after the firm ran into difficulties.

Gary Streeter, the re-elected Conservative MP for Plymouth Sutton, was also the subject of complaints by local Labour councillors after Foot and Bowden, the law firm of which he was a partner, appeared to have sold a number of the "off-the-shelf" companies that received grants and then failed. This is a legitimate business, and Mr Streeter was cleared of any wrongdoing by the Law Society's independent complaints bureau.

Continued on page 26, col 5

Sainsbury to start offering mortgages

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY, the first supermarket to launch its own bank, is to begin offering mortgages and personal loans to its customers from this summer.

Dino Adriano, chief executive, revealed the plan as he announced that pre-tax profits in the year to March 8 had fallen 15 per cent to £651 million, before exceptional items. Including exceptional charges, pre-tax profits were £609 million, compared with £712 million.

Launching the bank cost Sainsbury £6.3 million. The bank is expected to lose a further £15 million this year. Mr Adriano also said that preparing the company's computers for the millennium would cost £40 million. Half of that will come in the current year.

The unexpectedly high millennium and bank costs led some analysts to lower their profit forecasts for the current year. SBC Warburg, Sainsbury's own stockbroker, shifted down from £728 million to £690 million. UBS, by contrast, moved up from £660 million to £685 million, while BZW sat tight at £675 million.

The company's shares, which took a battering in the first three months of this year after profit warning, edged up 3p to 349p on news that current trading was above average for the sector. In the first half of last year, like-for-like sales were up 3.2 per cent. This rose to 3.7 per cent in the second half and is currently at 4.2 per cent. The current sector average is between 3 and 3.5 per cent, while the company reckons that inflation is about 1.5 per cent.

David McCarthy, food retail analyst at BZW, pointed out that some of the sales growth came from store extensions.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4537.5	(+18.2)
Yield	3.57%	
FTSE All share	2173.9	(+6.64)
Nikkei	20048.90	(+132.02)
Dow Jones	7182.78	(-42.54)
S&P Composite	825.25	(-2.51)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.5%	(5.5%)
Long Bond	9.6%	(9.6%)
Yield	6.65%	(6.65%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.1%	(6.1%)
Little long gilt future (Jun)	113.5p	(113.5p)

STERLING

New York	1.6365*	(1.6332)
London	1.6365	(1.6366)
DM	2.5138	(2.5195)
FFR	1.4627	(1.4621)
JPY	125.04*	(125.38)
SGP	2.3874	(2.3361)
Ven	204.31	(205.24)
E Index	100.3	(100.6)

SS/USD DOLLAR

London	1.7218*	(1.7245)
DM	1.6560*	(1.6510)
FFR	1.4627	(1.4621)
JPY	125.04*	(125.38)
S Index	105.2	(105.4)

Tokyo close Yen 125.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul.) \$18.30 (\$18.15)

GOLD

London close \$340.95 (\$342.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Sales drive

Toyota, the Japanese car manufacturer, is to invest £260 million expanding its British engine and car body operations for a sales assault on Europe. The move will create an extra 550 jobs.

Sainsbury's Bank currently offers credit cards and savings accounts. The bank has opened 150,000 accounts in the first ten weeks of operation.

The result included exceptional costs of £50 million for the conversion of Texas DIY stores to Homebase.

Earnings per share were 22p (26.8p). The company is paying a final dividend of 8.8p (8.7p), payable on July 25, giving a full year dividend of 12.3p (12.1p).

Page 26, Tempus 28

If you have a charge
on your home
supporting
business or other
loans, you need
MONEYSENSE !

The MoneySense Mortgage Account™ - a revolutionary concept in mortgage flexibility, designed with business people in mind. It provides:

Appointment could raise doubts over Chinese walls Concern at business leaders jumping the fence An idea has its day

GORDON BROWN must still be basking in the double delight of having taken the City by surprise and won its approbation, but as a degree of clarity returns to the thought processes of those stunned by his plans to reform the Bank of England, a few qualms are beginning to niggle.

Mr Brown's declared intention to lift the issue of interest rates right out of the political arena was destined to meet with instant gratitude from the business world. His insistence that there should be no new incarnation of the Ken and Eddie show underscored his professed determination to prevent the personalisation of debate over something so serious as interest rates.

A noble plan but not the easiest to implement. For while Mr Brown, in contrast with his jolly predecessor, may have mastered the art of keeping personality in check, he may find it difficult to people the Bank with a band of similar souls.

The essence of Mr Brown's plan is the new Bank of England committee which is to determine interest rates. On it will sit a new Deputy Governor and four new government-appointedees. There may be a collection of apolitical individuals now volunteering for the posts. Yet the intelligence in the Square Mile is loudly proclaiming that the front runner for

Is Davies too close to the family?

the vital Deputy Governor's role, which also includes overseeing the Bank's role in monetary policy, is one Gavin Davies.

The bearded Mr Davies, chief economist at Goldman Sachs,

said to be prepared to give up his shopping City salary in return for a role at the Bank, one which it is predicted could see him succeeding Governor Eddie George before very long.

A willingness to make such a personal sacrifice in the national interest should not be snubbed, but the appointment of Mr Davies could raise doubts over whether Mr Brown had succeeded in his quest for a Chinese wall around interest rate policy.

For Mr Davies is no stranger to the close knit core of the Blair administration. There is no secret surrounding the fact that his wife, Sue Ny, is Gordon Brown's assistant, but it surely raises a problem of perception, if not fact, in the possible appointment of her husband.

For Downing Street has been

taken over by a new first family which extends well beyond Tony,

Cherie and the three photogenic children, who know the spirit of the office.

Mr Davies will be perceived as

an economist. Mr Davies knows, perception is all.

And he should also note that

while it is widely perceived Mr

Davies has a good mind and a

capacity for thorough research,

his high ranking in City surveys

owes more to high profile than

accurate forecasting.

Labour relations

FUNNY, all these hard-headed businessmen, veterans of a decade or more of firing and downsizing, who are now queuing up to help Tony Blair. One might have thought the man chosen to replace Sir Bob Horton at BP would be in the same ruthless Thatcher mould, but Sir David Simon is now well placed at the top of any list of Labour-luvvies.

PENNINGTON



from-business. His Europhile credentials seem to have clinched him the job of full-time adviser to the Treasury and Department of Trade and Industry. Businessmen are by nature Euro-inclined — think of those wearying CBI surveys about the importance of joining the common currency, right now — because they tend to disregard airy notions like national sovereignty. But, as a sort of mirror image to the fuss about Tory ministers who engineered this or that privatisation and then joined the board, there is legitimate concern about business leaders jumping over the fence to new Labour.

First, we tend to expect well-

paid executives to work all the hours God sends, not indulge in esoteric and time-consuming hobbies. BP's board takes this view. There can be no financial benefit to the company in having someone so close to the reins of power. In other parts of the world this is called corruption.

Any executive so seconded should have to stand aside from his real job, as Sir David has. The cost-benefit analysis can then be left to them. Business leaders themselves seem to feel that such political connections add personal lustre — one remembers Lord Sterling, who spent almost a decade radiant in glory at Mrs Thatcher's right hand. The main beneficiaries must surely be the recipients of the advice, in this case a new Government with little experience of running anything. The Conservatives' problem was that they were there too long, and ignored any messages from the outside world. Just think of the trouble that could have been avoided. Any competent businessman would have advised against the

poll tax, even if the above Europhiles might not have spared us the exchange-rate mechanism.

And all would have given warning against allowing your ministers to take gifts from wealthy men in search of citizenship.

ICI research pays off

WHEN Niall FitzGerald recently revealed his plans for taking Unilever out of specialty chemicals, he omitted to mention that it was all the bright idea of a former Unilever executive, Charles Miller Smith. But that was the tale as told yesterday by Mr CMS, who, after nearly two years as chief executive of ICI, is paying Unilever nearly £5 billion to help with the company's restructuring.

Mr FitzGerald may not be thrilled with the purchaser's obstinate insistence that selling the businesses piecemeal would have brought Unilever "significantly" more, but, apart from that quibble, this does have the look of a deal that works for both sides.

Miller Smith has maintained a remarkably low profile since arriving at Millbank, but it now appears he has been plotting carefully: he first approached Unilever a year ago. He knows what he has bought and insists that it is real quality.

The benefits to ICI may go beyond the non-dilutive earnings. While his predecessors at ICI had made inroads into shaking up the bureaucratic culture, Miller Smith has made clear his views that the process was by no means complete. With the Unilever management coming on board, he believes he will now have an international gene pool of talent to fish to equip ICI for the next century.

FitzGerald is not bemoaning the fact that he swallowed the bait.

Take-home trade

BUYING a house in Britain is an unnecessarily cumbersome process, but the idea of picking up a mortgage at the supermarket is unlikely to make it any simpler. Neither is it likely to persuade happy homeowners to be loyal grocery buyers. Instead, it raises the nasty spectre of the grocer having to repossess a customer's home. Marks & Spencer avoided mortgage lending for that very reason.

Whitbread courts older customers as profits top £300m

BY FRASER NELSON

WHITBREAD, the brewing and leisure group, is to invest £500 million in its broad portfolio of businesses this year, targeting older customers.

The company plans to open 250 outlets in part to increase its share of the market for over-50s, which it expects to outperform the market for young people.

David Thomas, chief executive designate, said that the company — which spent £180 million on acquisitions last year — is now happy with its portfolio of businesses.

He said: "We must ask ourselves who is going to fill our pubs in the future. People are getting older, and are taking more control over their lifestyles. They have more money now, and they want to spend it. Older people did not use to see pubs as somewhere pleasant that they could spend money, but, by providing the sort of food that they enjoy, we are making inroads into the market."

Mr Thomas said that the popularity of Whitbread's



Thomas opening outlets:

Beefeater chain among older people was shown by subscription levels for its Emerald Card — a loyalty scheme for over-55s — now held by more than a million people.

Last year's acquisitions helped pre-tax profits to grow to an expected £205 million for the year to March 1, against £226 million for the previous 53 weeks. Earnings per share rose to 50.8p (46.1p). A 17.5p final dividend, due on July 18, makes a total of 23.8p.

The company plans to open

44 new outlets of Café Rouge, which came with acquisition of the Pelican group last summer; and 80 themed pubs, 40 Travel Inns, 35 Costa Coffees and five new centres for David Lloyd Leisure. More than 5,000 jobs should be created.

Whitbread plans to sell Keg North America, Richardson Inns and three branded three-star hotels and some of its less profitable off-licences.

Mr Thomas said that the company was not concerned about the prospect of a minimum wage. Although he would not cost the various levels, analysts forecast that the impact of a £3.50-an-hour minimum would be negligible. A £4.25 minimum, however, is expected to cost the group an extra £32 million a year.

Whitbread said that the millennium computer bug — in which tills and computers fail to recognise dates in 2000 — was not proving a problem and should have no effect on its balance sheet.

The shares rose 11.2p, to 801.2p.

Change at the inn, page 29

Dalgety cuts payout and issues warning

SHARES in Dalgety, the petfood and agriculture company, fell 13.5 per cent yesterday as it gave warning of falling profits and gave notice of a cut in dividend (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company also said that Nigel Garrow has resigned as head of the petfoods division. He is to be replaced by Hugh Donaldson, a former colleague of Sir Denis Henderson,

chairman of Dalgety, from ICI. Second-half profits are set to fall below those of the first half, when Dalgety made £43 million before tax down 8 per cent on the previous year.

The company said that it had a disappointing third quarter because of production difficulties at its Southall petfoods plant, the impact of BSE and the strength of sterling. BSE will

cost a further £9 million this year, after having cost the company £15 million last year. Cutting costs in the petfoods division will cost about £27 million.

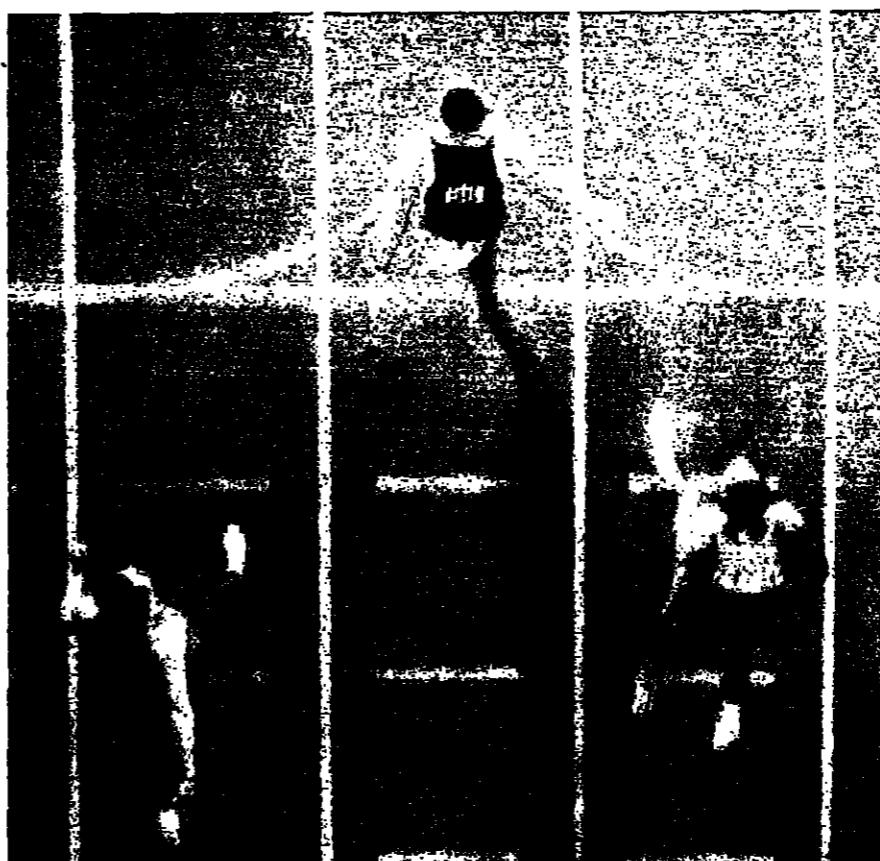
Richard Clothier, chief executive, said that plans for rationalisation of the petfoods division are likely to mean a 10 per cent cut in the 3,700 workforce over the next two years.

To restore cover, the final dividend

is expected to be cut to 6p, from 13.5p a year ago. This would give a total dividend of 14.5p, down from last year's 22p. The shares fell 41.2p, to 269p.

Sir Denis said: "The continued underperformance of our petfoods business has led us to conclude that tough action is required to ensure that we are on track to meet our financial objectives, albeit late."

Most companies already have what it takes to put them out in front.



If only they realised.

It's frustrating.

Your company is awash with data — everything from sales graphs to customer profiles to distribution maps to stock reports. But somehow you still can't get the answers you need, when you want them.

The solution — now and for the future — is Informix Data Warehousing.

Informix Data Warehousing has the power to transform your business by allowing you to exploit all

of your precious information to the full. It enables you to relate, compare and contrast different forms of data — yesterday's, today's and tomorrow's — so you can make the kind of creative decisions that lead to success.

If you seriously want to get ahead, nothing could be simpler or more risk-free than to test drive Informix Data Warehousing at our Information Superstore.

Call Lesley Robinson on 0181 818 1075 for more details. You'll wish you'd done it before.

Seeing is believing at the Information Superstore.

 INFORMIX®
Unleashing business innovation.

BASE RATE

With effect from

6 May 1997

The Royal Bank of Scotland

Base Rate has

been increased

from 6.00% to

6.25% per annum.

 The Royal Bank
of Scotland

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Registered Office: 36 St. Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2VB.
Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

Vert shares hit low on warning

BY FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Jacques Vert, the troubled women's wear retailer, plunged to a low yesterday as the company said that its autumn and winter fashion range had flopped.

Although like-for-like retail sales gained 18 per cent in the last six months, it has lost £1 million in wholesale orders from House of Fraser and Selfridges. This, it gave warning, will force its losses to exceed the £5 million loss expected by the market. Analysts now expect the company to report £7 million losses.

Although the Grace Collection, the range aimed at a younger market, met expectations, the core Jacques Vert label was shunned by wholesale buyers who were unable to sell the summer range.

It will pull the remaining 32 of its concessions in the House of Fraser by November this year.

The shares, which have fallen from 180p since last year, dropped 15p to 26.5p.

INFORMIX SOFTWARE LIMITED, 6 NEW SQUARE, BEDFORD LAKES, FELTHAM TW14 8HA.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares challenge 4,600 but run out of steam

EQUITIES extended this week's record-breaking run, although an early assault on 4,600 quickly ran out of steam.

Having climbed 106 points in just two days to reach an intra-trading high of 4,456.2, share prices closed below their best. The celebrations that marked the Chancellor's decision to hand over monetary policy to the Bank of England appear to be drawing to a close. With Wall Street nursing an early fall last night in the face of strong first-quarter US labour figures, prices in London are expected to open lower this morning.

In the event, the FTSE 100 index saw its early lead more than halved to close 18.2 up at 4,537.5. The total number of shares traded rose 100 million on the previous day's level to 802.7 million.

There was a positive response from brokers to the news that ICI is paying almost £5 billion for the specialty chemicals business owned by Unilever, 25p easier at £16.45. James Ingles, at HSBC James Capel, the broker, said it was a good deal and has moved ICI from a "sell" to a "hold" for the first time in four years. Kleinwort Benson took the view that ICI had paid a high price for the business. ICI finished 43p better at 757.4p.

What is Unilever likely to do with the proceeds? Market talk suggests a bid for Reckitt & Colman, up 11p at 894p, might be on the cards.

There was selective support for the banks with some brokers taking the view they had been left behind in recent weeks. NatWest Bank led the way higher with a rise of 12p to 763.5p and there was also support for Lloyds TSB, up 12p to 578p, Alliance & Leicester, up 6p to 585p, and Barclays Bank, up 7p to 811.99.

Royal Bank of Scotland eased 1p to 585p on the back of half-year figures that saw an increased contribution from Direct Line, its troubled insurance arm. Suggestions that the RBS might be the target of a bid from HSBC, 4p better at 17.05%, or the soon-to-be floated Halifax Building Society were dismissed.

Schroders rose 41p to 16.50 amid renewed speculation that it may receive an offer for its fund management arm. Schroders, one of the few remaining independent merchant banks, has seen its price drift from a peak of 17.57.



Chairman Doug Ellis and players cheer Aston Villa's debut

Confirmation that BSkyB, 30 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, plans to set up a digital interactive TV network boasting more than 200 channels lifted the price 5p to 101p. The new company being formed, British Interactive Broadcasting, will be owned jointly along with BT, 1p easier at 45p, Midland Bank and Matsushita of Japan.

The profits setback for J Sainsbury was much as brokers had anticipated following January's profits warning. An upbeat statement from Dino Adriano, the man brought in to revive the group's fortunes, was enough to lift the shares 3p to 349p. Brokers are now hoping the worst is over.

Profits at the top end of expectations lifted Whitbread 6p to 796.2p. The group has

confirmed plans to dispose of certain assets to achieve a better return on capital.

Dai-ichi tumbled 41p to 26p after moving to cut the dividend by a third in order to restore the cover. Profits in the second six months would also fall short of those achieved in the first half. The move will reduce the payout for the year from 22p to 14.5p.

The worse than expected profits setback left Tate & Lyle 5.5p lower at 448p. It was a game of two halves for shares of Aston Villa on its market debut. They achieved a useful premium early on but eventually closed at a discount. Discounted at 111 with mostly institutional investors, the price touched a peak for the day of 112 before settling at 110.70, a fall of 30p. Manchester United had every reason to cheer after winning the Premier League for the fourth time in five years but failed to take advantage of it. The shares ended the session 22p down at 63.99.

Garton Group has splashed out £6.3 million acquiring a near 25 per cent stake in British Dredging 18p better at 152.5p. Another profit warning from Jacques Vert left the shares 13p off at 265p.

The property sector received a much-needed fillip in the shape of a bullish report from BZW. It concludes that the cheapest stocks include MEC, up 12p at 474.2p, Great Portland Estates, 10p better at 216.5p, Grosvenor, 2p firmer at 156p, Capital & Regional, steady at 231.5p.

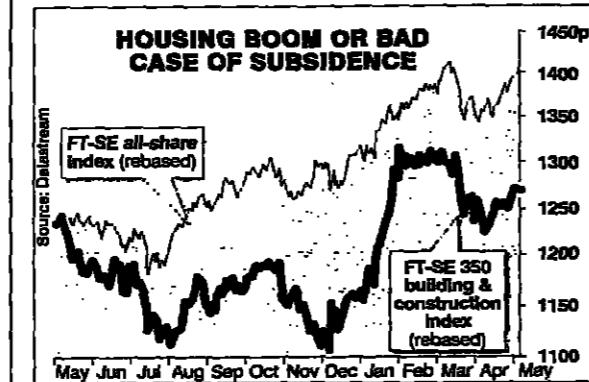
□ GILT-EDGED IT was a day of consolidation after Tuesday's spectacular gains.

Continuing selective support ensured that the losses were kept to a minimum with shorter-dated issues worst hit as losses extended to 4%. In the futures put, the June series of the long gilt finished just 1.5p down at 113.17, with the total number of contracts completed less than half the previous day's total at 103,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 eased five ticks to 108.4%, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was also five ticks lower at 103.16. NEW YORK Blue chips and bonds were sold off in last morning trading, triggering the New York stock exchange's automatic curbs on index-arbitrage trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 42.54 points at 7,182.78.

Lynch says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Another broker commented: "The sector has underperformed since February. The market's exposure to house price inflation has an exaggerated look to it."



A BULLISH statement on trading lifted Bellway 4p to 344p and also brought fresh hope that the housing revival is at last under way. The company said that in spite of the political uncertainty in recent months, buyers were still flooding into the market. The bullishness spilled over into the rest of the sector where there were gains for Barratt Developments, up 4p to 256.5p, Wainwrights 5p to 147.5p and Taylor Woodrow 4p to 205p.

But brokers remain cautious about prospects. Kevin Hammack, at Merrill

Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Another broker commented: "The sector has underperformed since February. The market's exposure to house price inflation has an exaggerated look to it."

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Another broker commented: "The sector has underperformed since February. The market's exposure to house price inflation has an exaggerated look to it."

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts of the country such as Scotland. The north of the country also remains quiet. The current euphoria spreads from Bristol across to East Anglia but has not been followed up by price levels".

Kevin Hammack, at Merrill Lynch, says: "Market firmness has begun to spread out from the South East, but it remains more difficult in other parts

Last Friday, a delightful picture winged its way round the world. It showed Tony Blair, his successful wife and their three charming children on the steps of their new home at 10 Downing Street. Within about 24 hours, this turned out to be the first Big Lie of the new administration, albeit a white one and unspoken.

So much of the roomy house originally meant to be the Prime Minister's residence is now taken up with machinery of government that the remaining flat is too poky for a family with children. So the Blairs are swapping with the bachelor Chancellor next door.

Never mind. The principle remains. When you have a really important job, it pays to live above the shop. The Blairs, like John Major (and Gordon Brown next door), have not moved in just for security reasons. A tasteful pad in Islington would be fine for most people, but when you really have to focus on the nation's business, you need to cut out that morning commuting and have your staff on hand with the morning coffee. You

Help create three million Downing Streets

gain from being physically at the heart of the action with your own finger on the pulse. Otherwise, like the Bank of England's dedicated Governor, you need to be in so early in the morning that you might as well have stayed the night. As many entrepreneurs and chief executives have discovered, running a country well, like making the most of a business, is not just a job.

The British economy, business and families have suffered much by forgetting this. Some economic historians trace the decline of the British economy all the way back to the later days of the industrial revolution, when Birmingham ironmasters started aping the gentry by building villas for their families in leafy Edgbaston. Even the influence of Roosevelt's, amazingly at its zenith at the end of the 19th century, is said to have been already doomed to decline once the

family became addicted to vast country estates. Ironically, earlier landowning magnates took their eye off the ball when they started spending most of their time in big London houses.

This is not just history. Stanley Morton, who built the Abbey National Building Society from relative obscurity to eminence, ruled it from a flat perched at the top of Abbey House. That old-fashioned entrepreneur Richard Branson controls his empire from his villa in London's Holland Park though, as a precedent for Mr Blair, business took over so much space that he bought the house next door to actually live in.

The late Robert Maxwell, who ran his business from his Oxford home, then used a flat at the *Daily Mirror*, illustrates the dangers for big business. Living above the shop is strictly for those in sole control (as Mr Blair intends to be).



And you can easily mix up public and private money.

In a decentralised corporation, there is much to be said for top directors taking a detached, strategic role — especially for their own gilded lifestyles. Granada's Gerry Robinson, a fashionable figure for modern professional managers, reckons you can run the biggest enterprise on four days a week.

For the country's three million self-employed, the wealth-creating sector's growing army of foot soldiers, there are no ifs or buts about who is running the show. There is often no one else, except perhaps your spouse and family. There is no danger of mixing up business and family finances. They are the same. Remember please, Mr Brown, John Prescott and Mr Blair that, although these enterprises are so different from your own, there is no more important business than one on which a family depends.

The traditional family is an economically efficient care unit for the state. Anyone who has seen the impact of its decline on the social security Budget will testify to that. Families that work apart and grow apart sometimes do not help.

Similarly, for a high proportion of more than two million tiny businesses run by the self-em-

ployed, living above the shop or working in the annexe is a huge aid to efficiency. Often, that alone makes a family-supporting enterprise viable in hard times.

Those who literally keep shops have seen their natural advantages stripped away by a series of legal and tax measures. Seven-day working laws allow multiples to rely on part-timers and undercut someone who has to earn a living. Planning laws spawned big shopping developments that exclude individuals and have stripped shops away from living quarters.

Finally, tax laws have, as if deliberately, removed the efficiency gains of living above the shop. The shop, the annexe used as an office or the garage used as a pottery or to repair mountain bikes, instead of being just part of the family property for council tax, are taxed nationally at the Uniform Business Rate. And there are

anti-business complications for capital gains and other taxes too. Even with transitional relief, this rising tax has destroyed thousands of businesses. In the search for extra revenue, the Uniform Business Rate will seem an attractive option. It could be disastrous for thousands more.

Running a business from home, or living on the premises, are lifestyles naturally set to grow as big plants shrink employment and more individual services are needed. Computers, the Internet and broad-band communications will stimulate more living and working in the same place. Wearing his transport hat, Mr Prescott will note that this is the only painless way to ease travel pollution and congestion. It will only happen if the Treasury and planners help.

A refreshingly radical start can be made in Mr Brown's July Budget by exempting all proprietors who can show they genuinely live or modest business premises from Uniform Business Rates. Subsequent Budgets can close the loopholes.

Old-style pubs left behind in food and family revolution

Whitbread is at the forefront of change as brewers adapt to new leisure patterns, says Martin Waller



British pubs have altered considerably since *The Rovers Return* in Ena Sharples's day

focus of investment has been on expanding food-led concepts."

This has led Whitbread into the purchase of specialist restaurant chains such as Pelican Group, for £133 million last July, and BrightReasons, owner of Pizzaland and bought for £40 million in September — and into some flask for allegedly paying over the odds for some of them, as well as for other diversifications such as David Lloyd Leisure, the chain of health clubs.

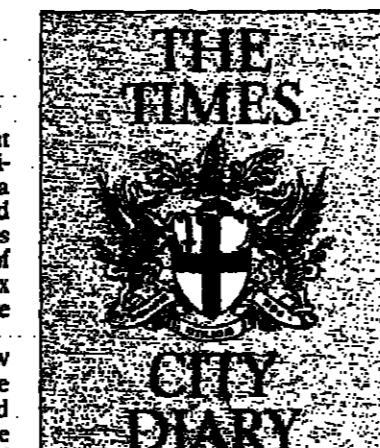
It is significant that when Mr Jarvis's successor was announced in December, he was David Thomas, head of the restaurants and leisure division. But Whitbread, five years ago, would have seemed an unlikely business to pioneer a revolution in public taste, because the company was one of the most entrenched members of the old "beverage", that slice of the aristocracy with strong Conservative Party links that controlled a huge chunk of the production, distribution and

sale of the country's beer production.

Two events set the scene for the change. The issue of the "Beer Orders" in 1989 was the Government's attempt to weaken the tie between the brewers of beer such as Whitbread and the pubs that they owned and operated as a captive market for their product, and to introduce competition by opening that market to interlopers. The top six brewers were required to sell, in all, 11,000 outlets.

The Beer Orders are widely regarded as a failure, in that they failed to force down the price of a pint, one stated object, and the big brewers emerged from the exercise financially stronger, having sold the worst performers in their estates and taken huge write-offs against profits that could conveniently be blamed on government policy.

But they succeeded in introducing a whole raft of new entrants into the pubs market,



MANCHESTER

Mancunian offices opened about a year ago by Apax Partners, the merchant bank. The strange attachment of this German-trained US national to the North West is the research work carried out by Dr Eileen Paul at Manchester University into cellular molecular biology. "I'm very proud of my wife," he says. "I was asked many times to move to London. For personal reasons I would like to stay in this area."

Carpet-sweeper

AN EQUALLY touching tale of revenge by the little man over the big

banks. Gordon Campbell-Gray, the hotelier behind The Feathers in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, will today be at the topping-out ceremony of his latest luxury hotel, One Aldwych, which opens next spring.

As a young man seeking funds for The Feathers, he was once humiliatingly rejected by a manager at a Lloyds Bank branch in London, and never forgot looking downcast at his feet — and the bank's garish carpet. Years later he arrived at the newly purchased Aldwych site. "There was this unbelievably hideous, typically English, carpet. I asked them to remove it immediately," he says. Then the penny dropped. He had bought the same building.

MARTIN WALLER



• ANOTHER day, another dose of bad luck at Triton Court. Who are the two biggest investors in Dalgety, the latest blue chip to see its shares savaged by an entirely unexpected profits warning? Step forward that well-known long-term investor PDPM, with a 19 per cent stake, and MSG, also going through a bit of a short-term sticky patch, with 13 per cent.

Hot line

IN THE interests of fostering our special relationship with the

Brown's revolution fires keen bout of 'Thread-watching'

Alasdair Murray
on intense City speculation over the future of a reformed Bank of England

from the ranks of the "great and the good" in the City, receiving £500 a year — unchanged since 1945 — and free lunches. Mr Brown wants to broaden the make-up of the Court, adding more industrialists, regional representatives and possibly trade unionists, while encouraging it to monitor Bank decision-making more actively.

There is also great uncertainty about how the committee members will function in relation to the Government. Treasury members will be able to attend and contribute to the monetary policy debates, as occurs in Germany, although they will have no voting rights. But Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, argues that monitoring of this nature is insufficient to resolve tensions caused by splitting control of monetary and fiscal policy.

Budgets will now be planned without full knowledge of the future direction of interest rates, while the Bank, in turn, will amend interest rates without knowing the potential impact of fiscal changes in Budgets. In countries such as Germany this has often resulted in an excessively tight monetary policy.

But Gavyn Davies argues in an article that outlined his ideas for the Bank — which bear an uncanny resemblance to the plans revealed by Mr Brown — that the Government will be able to shift the inflation target to take account of supply-side shocks. In contrast, in Germany the Bundesbank sets the inflation target and the government cannot intervene.

The UK Government will have a right to override the Bank in "exceptional circumstances", without specifying when and how this might be used. Whether the new administration will ever need its reserve powers will depend on the Government's main lever of control — the quality of its appointments to the Bank.

THREEDNEEDLE STREET EC2

Federal Reserve Bank in America, and raises the spectre of every comment by a committee member becoming market-sensitive. Just as "Fed-watching" is a favourite Wall Street game as the market attempts to second guess the next move on interest rates, "Thread-watching" will become a full-time job for the legions of City economists and market analysts.

Mr Brown is also aiming to police the committee by increasing the impact of the Court, the Bank's governing body, which functions in a similar manner to non-executive directors. Traditionally, members have been drawn



Managed Overdraft Rate Change

With effect from Wednesday 7th May 1997

The Co-operative Bank Managed Overdraft Rates

for small businesses will be as follows:

	% per month
Premium Rate	0.88
Standard Rate	0.96

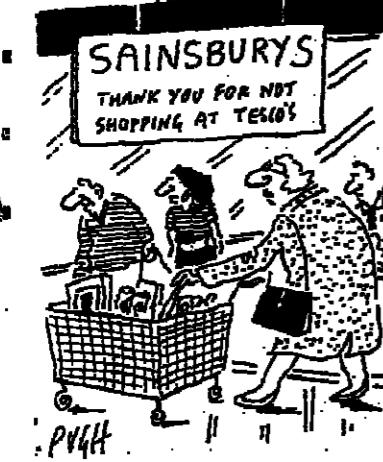
The CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD, HEAD OFFICE

1 BALLOON STREET, MANCHESTER M2 6LA, ENGLAND

Peer hunting

ANY ATTEMPT by Labour to include City regulation in the Queen's speech, and impose a more centralised structure on all those impenetrable acronyms, will be made difficult by the shortage of House of Lords peers with the necessary commercial and financial expertise to steer the Bill past Lords Hambro, Hanson, Prior et al. There's always Clive Hollick, of course, and Richard Branson, has, surprise, pushed himself



forward on to the list of possibles. But the search is on for suitable candidates. Perhaps I might suggest a couple. Arise Lord Thomas and Lord Fife, or Terry Thomas, who retires this autumn as managing director of the Co-operative Bank and Lemnos Pyle, chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Veterans of the War of Andrew Regan's Ego will be welcome on the Labour benches, and they would have a few things to say about the need for more regulatory control of the City, too. The Co-op movement has 26 MPs in the new administration, but only four peers. Peter Clarke, national secretary of the Co-op Party, would not comment on my suggestion but accepted the urgent need for new people in the House of Lords to plug gaps caused by death and illness.

• A TOUCHING tale of marital devotion reaches me. Tom Geimer, biotech analyst at Henry Cooke Lumsden, has rejected several blandishments to come south, preferring to stay in Manchester. He has now found a new job locally, and starts at the beginning of next month at the



MANCHESTER

Mancunian offices opened about a year ago by Apax Partners, the merchant bank. The strange attachment of this German-trained US national to the North West is the research work carried out by Dr Eileen Paul at Manchester University into cellular molecular biology. "I'm very proud of my wife," he says. "I was asked many times to move to London. For personal reasons I would like to stay in this area."

Carpet-sweeper

AN EQUALLY touching tale of revenge by the little man over the big

banks. Gordon Campbell-Gray, the hotelier behind The Feathers in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, will today be at the topping-out ceremony of his latest luxury hotel, One Aldwych, which opens next spring.

As a young man seeking funds for The Feathers, he was once humiliatingly rejected by a manager at a Lloyds Bank branch in London, and never forgot looking downcast at his feet — and the bank's garish carpet.

Years later he arrived at the newly purchased Aldwych site. "There was this unbelievably hideous, typically English, carpet. I asked them to remove it immediately," he says. Then the penny dropped. He had bought the same building.

MARTIN WALLER



• ANOTHER day, another dose of bad luck at Triton Court. Who are the two biggest investors in Dalgety, the latest blue chip to see its shares savaged by an entirely unexpected profits warning? Step forward that well-known long-term investor PDPM, with a 19 per cent stake, and MSG, also going through a bit of a short-term sticky patch, with 13 per cent.

Hot line

IN THE interests of fostering our special relationship with the

Tate & Lyle soured by emerging markets

By ADAM JONES

THE closure of plants in Ukraine and Bulgaria, combined with a squeeze on sugar margins in China, has forced Tate & Lyle to make provision for a £35 million paper loss.

Its emerging markets problem dragged down already weak interim results, sending the shares down 5½ p to 48½ p.

The sugars and sweeteners group reported a six-month profit before tax and exceptional of £113.6 million, compared with £155.9 million last time. Exceptional costs pulled this down by a further £8.2 million, including £29.2 million for a planned reorganisation of its American activities and the write-down of assets and write-off of goodwill in underperforming businesses.

Statement lifts shares in Booker

SHARES in Booker, the food production group, rose 13½ p. to 323½ p., after a trading statement in which the group said that like-for-like cash-and-carry sales are up 5 per cent year on year.

Jonathan Taylor, chairman, also told shareholders that overall group sales, including Nurdin & Peacock, are up by 36 per cent.

He said: "The group is on track to achieve all its main objectives, including our anticipated increase in earnings and debt reduction in 1997 and 1998."

In food distribution,

the integration of the Nurdin & Peacock cash and carry business is proceeding... as planned. We are initially reviewing the future of cash-and-carry depots in 13 locations."

Analysts' full-year profit expectations now range from £244 million to about £255 million, before exceptions and tax.

The company expects improved returns from North American starch and sweetener operations in the second half. Improvements, however, will be affected by continued strength of sterling, which caused the company to lose £17.3 million in the six months.

Analysts' full-year profit expectations now range from £244 million to about £255 million, before exceptions and tax.

The company said it is declaring a foreign income dividend this year, payable on July 15, as more profit was made from overseas. Shareholders will get the underlying dividend of 5.5p, unchanged from last year, plus an extra 25 per cent to cover the extra tax faced by many UK institutions.

Tempus, page 28



Jay Kay of Jamiroquai, sold a million copies of Travelling Without Moving in Japan

BAA seeks Asia-Pacific hub

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BAA, the UK airport operator,

yesterday unveiled plans to own a string of airports throughout the Asia-Pacific region after its successful joint venture bid for Australia's Melbourne airport for A\$1.31 billion (about £617 million).

The Australian Government confirmed yesterday that the BAA-led consortium, known as Australia Pacific Airports, had been awarded a 50-year lease to run Melbourne's Tullamarine airport as part of the first tranche of its airport privatisation programme.

Andrew Jurenko, the consortium's chief executive said: "Australia Pacific Airports is focused on becoming the leading airport operator in the Asia-Pacific. The purchase of Tullamarine provides the perfect platform to launch our airport business in the region. We are already in negotiations in Bali and looking at other acquisitions in the region."

Under the deal Australia Pacific Airports, which also includes AMP and Axiom, the Australian fund managers, has agreed to reduce aeronautical charges at Melbourne by at least 18.5 per cent over the next five years.

The Australian Government also announced the sale of Brisbane airport to a consortium headed by Amsterdam's Schiphol airport for A\$1.39 billion and Perth airport to a consortium led by Airport Group Holdings for A\$643 million. Two other British-led groups, headed by Manchester airport and National Express, had hoped to secure one of the airports, but failed to make it past the shortlist.

Prices paid for the three airports far exceed the market's initial expectations of just A\$2 billion for the sale of all 23 airports in Australia. The Australian Government plans to sell the remaining airports in batches over the next year.

Pacific Airports, which also includes AMP and Axiom, the Australian fund managers, has agreed to reduce aeronautical charges at Melbourne by at least 18.5 per cent over the next five years.

In many other SFO inquiries focused in the UK, these policies can prove to be formidable obstacles to effective fraud investigation. Perhaps the lesson of a major fraud like BCCI is that the retention law should be tougher: many frauds extend back further than five years, particularly where investigations are protracted.

The Gokal case also underlines the fact that large financial fraud ignores international boundaries. With money moving around the world's financial centres with great ease and speed, the need for co-operation and co-ordinated action by the world's authorities has never been greater.

Unfortunately, there are nations such as the Bahamas and Seychelles, that continue to obstruct assistance to others in tracing assets, retrieving documents and records for investigative use, and so allow fraudsters to evade prosecution and to continue to profit from their criminal actions.

The need for co-operation between international authorities has led to the establishment of a Mutual Legal Assistance Division at the SFO. The aim is to show other countries that the UK will assist them in their efforts to seek information and documents from entities based in this country. There will, however, always be nations where the establishment of such an office would simply be bad for business.

Rik Workman says the BCCI case offers lessons

laws may have encouraged the belief that such sources can prove impenetrable to even the most determined fraud investigator. But our experience was quite the reverse: we had excellent co-operation from the authorities there.

We benefited, in particular, from the Swiss legal obligation

for banks to keep their detailed records on individual transactions for a period of ten years. This is in stark contrast to the situation in Britain. Although money laundering

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Paterson. "I acknowledge that Falkirk deserve to be ranked with the all-time greats, such as Real Madrid, Juventus and Maryhill Juniors."

Wrong target

JOHN ANDREWES is an esteemed tax partner at Coopers & Lybrand. He will shortly take over as the president of

Going rates

THIS year's annual accounts of the English ICA, published today, show the pay of Andrew Colquhoun, chief executive, for the first time. Antea Rose, chief executive of the certified accountants, received brick-bats from members over her £108,000 pay, revealed last year. Now she should argue about catching up. Colquhoun takes home £124,000.

ROBERT BRUCE

Sony hits wrong note over profits

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN TOKYO

SONY MUSIC, the recording company of Michael Jackson and Bruce Springsteen, blamed a lack of big hits for a 23 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to 1230 billion yen (£63 million) in the year to March 31.

The record company, affiliated to Sony Corp, the electronics group, suffered a 10 per cent decline in sales to Y103.1 billion.

Sony has invested heavily in new artists, particularly in Japan, a market that accounts for more than half of the company's business. Japanese artists such as Judy and Mary, Puffy and Dreams Come True have been well received. Sales of records by home-grown artists eased 6.5 per cent but that compared favourably with a 12.2 per cent decline in sales of music by non-Japanese music, despite the popularity of some of its artists, such as Celine Dion and Jamiroquai.

Brilliant's Jamiroquai sold more than one million copies of *Travelling Without Moving*, its new album, in Japan.

Classical music sales increased steadily.

In the financial year to 1996, Sony forecasts pre-tax profit of Y14.5 billion on revenue of Y215.6 billion.

Sony's custom manufacturing division was the only product group that reported an increase in sales in 1996-97.

Net sales rose 4.1 per cent mainly because of robust demand for CD-Roms for software used in PlayStation, Sony Computer Entertainment's hit home video game machine.

PowerGen in £150m project with Siemens

POWERGEN, the UK electricity generation company, and Siemens, the German industrial group, have agreed to build and operate a £150 million development centre in Britain to test and demonstrate gas turbine technology in a commercial combined-cycle power plant. The joint venture, announced yesterday, clears the way for the construction of the Cottam Development Centre at the site of PowerGen's existing Cottam power station in Nottinghamshire.

The new facility, which will have capacity up to 500 megawatts, will test plant through prolonged demonstration runs rather than brief test-bed trials. Work will start this month and will create up to 500 construction jobs. When completed the centre will employ up to 50 staff. The venture comes after Department of Trade and Industry agreement to build a 24-kilometre gas pipeline from Cottam to the national gas transmission system at Blyborough, Lincolnshire.

Ruling on Renault site

THE Court of Appeal in Versailles has ruled that Renault, the car maker, must call a meeting of its European works council representing employees before it can close its Vilvoorde plant in Belgium. Renault had appealed against a ruling by a Nanterre court that it had not followed proper procedure in deciding to shut Vilvoorde. Unions had applied to the Nanterre court. Renault had planned to close Vilvoorde at the end of July. The plant employs 3,100 staff.

Grant merger denied

BURN STEWART, the distillers, said there are no talks in progress that might lead to a merger with William Grant. In a statement responding to speculation, Burn Stewart said: "There has been a trading relationship between the two companies which goes back for many years and this is expected to continue. Some months ago the possibility of a closer relationship was contemplated, but these talks were not taken any further." Shares in Burn Stewart slipped 1p to 59p.

EIB backs film project

THE European Investment Bank, the lending arm of the European Union, is lending 71 million ecus to PolyGram to help it produce European films. ING Bank will underwrite the project, the EIB said. Sir Brian Unwin, the EIB president, said: "This is the first time the EIB has financed the film industry." The EIB said that the money would be used by PolyGram to shoot films predominantly within the EU aimed at a family audience.

HTV in licence plea

HTV GROUP, the media owner for Wales and the West of England, called on the Independent Television Commission to publish its licence fee licence renewal and to ensure that Channel 4 licences are reviewed on an individual basis. Louis Sheppard, group chairman, told HTV's annual meeting yesterday that if HTV and ITV are to be able to plan accurately for the next five years it was essential to know immediately what funding the payments will be.

SeaCon forecast

SEA CON, the Birmingham-based owner of Great Northern Ferries and Stena Line, expects to double its earnings per share this year. James Sheepshew, SeaCon's founder and president, said in the company's annual report that profits from recent acquisitions should hit a £24.5 million record. Overall, the group forecast operating profits for 1997 of £98.2 million, up from £56.7 million. That should, he said, double the earnings per share of 73p.

When there's no smoking gun

Rik Workman looks at how fraud leaves only a lengthy paper trail

Fraud is a crime unlike any other. There is usually no witness who "saw" what happened, no smoking gun, no getaway car — just mountains of paperwork and endless lists of bank account transactions to sift through.

These days, money is diverted, moved or hidden on the signing of a document and the press of a computer key. For each transaction, there is a mass of paper generated to evidence it. Any corrupt individual with a desktop PC can manufacture credible documentary evidence. If that individual can then persuade colleagues to join him, there is a risk of serious fraud. If they can get customers to join the scam, fraud is almost unstoppable.

Together, Gokal, the BCCI fraudster who is due to be sentenced today, was such an individual. As chairman of the Gulf shipping group, he was the key figure in a deep-rooted and well-camouflaged conspiracy with BCCI to steal money from the bank's depositors and to con Price Waterhouse, its auditors. He was the largest borrower from BCCI and, together with the bank, deceived PW in a systematic manner.

Gokal relied upon a raft of his senior managers to lend credence to his deceptions and was prepared to mislead a number of more junior em-

ployees as to the purposes for which their signatures on documents were required. BCCI itself had its own "factory" dedicated solely to the production of false documents. A case perhaps of job creation at its most extreme, in the latter days of fraud, staff were physically collapsing under the strain of having to create so much paper and juggle millions of dollars in fictitious transactions. Fraud can seriously damage your health.

Together Gokal, the BCCI moved money in circles around the world, from bank account to bank account, all the time seeking to cover the tracks that both BCCI and Gulf were profitable and solid. My colleagues and I discovered that money arriving in many of these Gulf accounts originated from other bogus Gulf accounts, and our task was to prove this. This demanded banking and corporate documentation from many different banks in a number of international jurisdictions. The loss or destruction of documents, or the inability to acquire them from certain difficult territories can frustrate the tracing of the money and render the evidential value of that particular line of investigation worthless.

Many of Mr Gokal's private bank accounts were held in Switzerland. That country's well-publicised bank secrecy laws may have encouraged the belief that such sources can prove impenetrable to even the most determined fraud investigator. But our experience was quite the reverse: we had excellent co-operation from the authorities there. We benefited, in particular, from the Swiss legal obligation for banks to keep their detailed records on individual transactions for a period of ten years. This is in stark contrast to the situation in Britain. Although money laundering

regulations now require supporting records to be kept for five years, our case preceded the introduction of these, and we found that many of the supporting details of the transactions on those statements that we required had been destroyed.

Guidance notes that explain the relevant regulations are not mandatory for authorised banks and their retention policies on original documents appear to be determined largely by commercial

considerations, such as the costs of storage and microfilm.

In many other SFO inquiries focused in the UK, these policies can prove to be formidable obstacles to effective fraud investigation. Perhaps the lesson of a major fraud like BCCI is that the retention law should be tougher: many frauds extend back further than five years, particularly where investigations are protracted.

The Gokal case also underlines the fact that large financial fraud ignores international boundaries. With money moving around the world's financial centres with great ease and speed, the need for co-operation and co-ordinated action by the world's authorities has never been greater.

Unfortunately, there are nations such as the Bahamas and Seychelles, that continue to obstruct assistance to others in tracing assets, retrieving documents and records for investigative use, and so allow fraudsters to evade prosecution and to continue to profit from their criminal actions.

The need for co-operation between international authorities has led to the establishment of a Mutual Legal Assistance Division at the SFO. The aim is to show other countries that the UK will assist them in their efforts to seek information and documents from entities based in this country. There will, however, always be nations where the establishment of such an office would simply be bad for business.

Rik Workman says the BCCI case offers lessons

Andersens acquires international accent

THE success of Andersen Worldwide is little short of phenomenal. In 1993, when Jim Wadia was appointed managing partner at Arthur Andersen in the UK, it posted global revenues of \$6 billion. Now, with Wadia on the threshold of running almost \$10 billion of revenue just in the six months to the end of February.

It is hard for people outside the organisation to grasp the scale of what is going on. It is not that Andersen is secretive. It is more that it is a determined organisation that sticks close to the business culture of its US roots in Chicago.

And that culture says it is dynamic but self-contained. As Wadia once said of his partners: "You couldn't find a more individualistic bunch and they have a freedom to express themselves within a culture that is second nature to them. It becomes an instinct."

So it was that last week a high proportion of Andersen Worldwide's 2,700 partners were in Paris to decide on the future. The issues were simple. Larry Weinbach, Andersen Worldwide's chief executive, is standing down at the end of July. So there was a vacancy at the very top to be sorted out. And then there was the organisation itself. Since 1989 Andersen Worldwide has consisted of two separate units: Arthur Andersen, the original accounting and business organisation, and Andersen Consulting. And the strains and stresses that led to the separation in 1989 are, though these days, Arthur Andersen has more partners and more votes than Andersen Consulting. But Andersen Consulting is growing faster and a year ago finally overtook its parent company. And the growth differential continues. In the six months to February Andersen Consulting's revenue grew 25 per cent. Arthur Andersen's grew 12 per cent. Also, Arthur Andersen, once simply an accounting firm, is now an ever-widening range of professional services and in some areas treads heavily on Andersen Consulting's turf. George Shaheen, the head of Consulting, complains about this in good home-spun American fashion. "It's difficult for two brothers to date the same gal," is how he once summed it up.

So Paris was the culmination of a long and much fought-over campaign to find a structural way forward. Plans for splitting the organisation into further separate business units had been bandied about over the months before. But in Paris the instinct of culture first, then business, won out. Chalmers Impey to qualify as an accountant, and then moved to Andersen as a tax expert.

His style is simple and uncluttered. He talks to people, gets their views, takes a decision and gets on to the next issue. He made his name in the tax practice through clear analysis. On one occasion he noticed that a disproportionate number of multinational companies were operating out of Sweden, but none of the big accounting firms had a specialist partner on site to handle the work. He appointed one. Andersen cleaned up. The ballooning papers got sorted. In August, Wadia will be at command. But in reality it is the Andersen culture that will again and again pull in revenues. The difference is that it will now have a more international accent.

Thistle sting

SCOTTISH football supporters are not supposed to spread sweethearts and light. But a bizarre press notice this week suggests otherwise. It comes from Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, and Ron Paterson, his arch-critic from Ernst & Young. Tweedie once described Paterson's attack on the ASB's statement of principles as hav-

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Falkirk deserve to be ranked with the all-time greats, such as Real Madrid, Juventus and Maryhill Juniors."

Wrong target

JOHN ANDREWES is an esteemed tax partner at Coopers & Lybrand. He will shortly take over as the president of

Going rates

THIS year's annual accounts of the English ICA, published today, show the pay of Andrew Colquhoun, chief executive, for the first time. Antea Rose, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Taxation. So it is all the stranger that the firm of Kingston Smith should send him a mailshot on tax. The personal letter, addressed to him at the institute, includes the helpful statement: "I enclose a leaflet which will assist in deciding if self-assessment will affect you." Time to cleanse that mailing list.

ROBERT BRUCE



Gen in EIS
with Siemens

On Renault

卷之三

Books film proj

7 licence plea

on forecast

acquires
an accent

كتاب الفصل

wind tung
unexpected
tape for
the letter - go to
r or - you
letter, may
by be due to
; the latest
necessarily
eighth

corner of
the BBC2
TV expert
and viewer
had more
actually
selected
minutes
sitting
at one
out of

卷之三

67

■ MUSIC 1

From Tudor motets to Cleo Laine: the Proms range wider still and wider

■ MUSIC 2

Sir Colin Davis takes a magisterial approach to Brahms and Beethoven

THE TIMES ARTS

■ POP 1

A triumphant night for the Fugees as they expand their appeal to fill Wembley Arena

■ POP 2

... and Nanci Griffith gives a tour de force, in a bittersweet vein, at the Olympia in Dublin

MUSIC: A guide to the world's greatest music festival; plus a review of the London Symphony Orchestra in top form

Twenty cheers for the '97 Proms

Most solemn: The Proms traditionally open with something massive, choral and morally improving — notwithstanding a delicious deviation (in every sense) into one of Strauss's more bloodthirsty operas a year or two ago. This season, sublimity is restored. The First Night (Jul 18) sees hundreds of singers and players crammed into the Albert Hall for Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, conducted by Bernard Haitink.

Least solemn: Some 73 concerts later, the Last Night (Sept 13) lives up to its eclectic reputation, including Wagner, the Liebestod from *Tristan* sung by Anne Evans, and Gershwin's *Variations on I Got Rhythm*, to say nothing of silly hats, Union Jacks, and an Irish Reel by Britten.

Loudest: The jubilantly named Ensemble Bash will surely give a thumping good account of percussion music from many different traditions in a late-night Prom (Jul 23). But will it match the decibel count from Robert Wallace's hoppiness, featured in Edward McGuire's *Caligacus* (Aug 18)?

Newest: There are more than 30 premières this year, from established figures such as Iannis Xenakis, Peter Maxwell Davies, Elliott Carter, and Magnus Lindberg, as well as newish names like the American *enfant terrible* Michael Gordon. He was brought up in the Nicaraguan jungle and now writes pieces with titles such as *Yo, Shakespeare and Love Dead*. I just hope that all the new works are actually finished on time this year.

Oldest: Written five centuries ago, the *Magnificat Regale* by

More concerts, more premieres, more broadcasts... and Des Lynam hired to compose the introductory CD. The 103rd season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts will not be short of bulk or innovation. But what of its quality? RICHARD MORRISON identifies 20 superlatives in the 1997 season

Robert Fayfax is performed by the BBC Singers (Aug 15). Fayfax was the composer selected by Henry VIII to accompany him to the Field of the Cloth of Gold, where his music was sung by combined French- and English choirs.

Perhaps some inspirational harmonies might improve the quality of present-day European summits.

Youngest: The number of young orchestras at the Proms seems to increase each year. Cynics will point out that they are cheap. But let's not be cynical: such ensembles as the National Youth Orchestra (Aug 9), the (mainly East European) Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra (Aug 12), the National Youth Chamber Orchestra (Aug 24) and the European Union Youth Orchestra (Sept 9) are outstanding by any standards.

The youngest audience, however, will undoubtedly be the thousands of children packing the Junior Prom on Sept 8 — and next Tuesday. The Times will run a competition to give away 400 tickets for that.

Sleaziest: Meanwhile, the entertainment on Aug 3 is strictly for adults only. Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* and *Mahagonny*, both scathing satires on decadence and degradation, will be staged — doubtless very saucily — by

Salomé. Other visiting orchestras include the Kirov (Aug 14), Budapest Festival (Aug 15), Dallas Symphony (Aug 24) and Leipzig Gewandhaus (Aug 27-28).

Most favoured composer: In their anniversary years Brahms, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Korngold all get reasonable deference. But only Britten has a whole weekend devoted to his music (Aug 16-17). It includes the Westminster Abbey Choir singing the lovely *Ceremony of Carols*.

Most relentlessly chirpy performers: I don't really mind the King's Singers skipping from Renaissance madrigals to Lennon and McCartney in one late-night Prom (Jul 31). I just wish they would cut out those silly grins.

Fishiest Prom: Extracts from Frank Zappa's *The Yellow Shark* will be performed in a Prom (Jul 20) that otherwise trawls through the shallows of American minimalism. High-brow critics will scoff, but the Albert Hall will be packed.

Funniest: Well, humour is a subjective thing, but *The Gondoliers* is supposed to be comic (Aug 2), and if Gilbert and Sullivan isn't your thing there is always Rossini's farcical opera *Count Ory*, which Glyndebourne forces are semi-staging on Aug 25.

Earthiest: Folk music is a theme running through this season, but nowhere more strongly than in the late-night Prom on Aug 8, when the all-male *Rustavi Choir* from Georgia offers traditional fare.

Basso doesn't come more *profundo* than in these great Caucasian choirs: once heard, never forgotten.

Rarest: Well, have you ever heard Brahms's "heroic cantata" *Rinaldo*? Don't miss it when the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra plays it on Sept 7; it might not reappear in our lifetimes.

Deadliest: It's a great year for Requiams: take your choice from Verdi (Sep 12), Brahms (Sep 10) or Britten (Aug 17).

Jazziest: Hard to believe it, but Cleo Laine and John Dankworth are 70 this year. Homage will be paid in a Prom (Aug 29) by the BBC Big Band and Concert Orchestra that includes Ellington and Gershwin classics as well as the premiere of a new Dankworth piece.

Most poignant: Composing his oratorio *Jephtha*, Handel had reached the words "How dark O Lord are Thy decrees, all hid from mortal sight" when his own sight failed. It

was to be his last oratorio — and his finest, say some Handel devotees. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts a top-class cast (Sept 1).

Most virtuosic: Performing at the Proms — with that huge, standing audience packed in just a few feet away — must be the most terrifying assignment in classical music. But great performers rise to the occasion. Watch out for Evelyn Glennie, the amazing percus-

sionist who premieres a new concerto by Jonathan Harvey (Jul 26). Maxim Vengerov, the young Russian superstar violinist who plays Shostakovich on Sept 10, and Evgeny Kissin, the astonishing 25-year-old pianist who gives the first full-length solo Proms recital in 103 years (Aug 10).

• The BBC Proms '97 Guide (£3.99) out this week, has a priority booking form. Booking opens May 21; telephone booking 0171-582129 from June 10.

Discoveries in great company

CONCERT

LSO/Davis Barbican

BEETHOVEN and Brahms dominated the London Symphony Orchestra's concert on Tuesday, prefaced by the premiere of Piers Hellawell's *Do Not Disturb*. Hellawell's piece is the latest product of the LSO's enterprising programme of commissions: the Finchley Children's Music Group also took part, and the project had been organised by the orchestra's educational "Discovery" department.

Do Not Disturb takes its title from words in *Ways Through Bracken* by the poet Tom Clark, two of whose poems are incorporated. The 15-minute score is neatly symmetrical: the poems are set into the second and fourth movements, around which the orchestra plays a prelude, interlude and postlude. The subject of the poetry, which evokes the lonelier corners of mountain terrain, is the need for solitude. Hellawell responds with dark, "northern" timbres, while restless percussion and scrunching strings supply the sounds of nature's murmuring.

It's all very eco-friendly, and listener-friendly too. But will it be widely performed? It does not help that Hellawell's orchestration is so thick, and it is odd that he should be inconsiderate of children's voices.

JOHN ALLISON

Street-smart and user-friendly

POP

Fugees Wembley Arena

Only confident singing from the FCMB and Colin Davis' careful conducting got the balance right, although very few words came across.

An unforgettable account of Beethoven's Violin Concerto followed, with Anne-Sophie Mutter the soloist. Her big, generous tone was coloured and shaded for intensity. She tore into both cadenzas with extraordinary virtuosity but also heartfelt passion that never contradicted the yearning, quiet poignancy of the rest of her playing.

Brahms's First Symphony is an almost Beethovenian work, and Davis stressed the broadening struggles of the opening movement. His tempos were majestic, even slow, but the performance led towards a finale of red-hot fervour. Both this and the Beethoven, familiar works, sounded newly inspiring. Davis is one of the great conductors of today, and the LSO is one of the great orchestras.

JOHN ALLISON

Live in the hall of fame

Nanci Griffith Dublin

fairly low-key fashion before Griffith, in her soft, almost polite vocal style, essayed a multi-lingual version of the song which made her famous in this part of the world. *From a Distance*.

Given the pedigree of the musicians on stage — even the roadie was once Roy Orbison's guitarist — this three-hour set was a dizzying, almost overwhelming experience. The early part of the show drifted by in a

Timberland boots (minus laces), they maintained credibility with a succession of harder hip hop numbers, interspersed with their trademark "refugee" raps. They were rewarded with one of the most unequivocal demands for an encore I can remember, and obliged with a nail-hard version of *Cowboys*. Fugees certainly rocked this house.

DAVID SINCLAIR

J. I. Alison and the song *Peggy Sue*, one has no option but to sit back and marvel. Having led the band through all of Buddy Holly's best-loved songs, Curtis was joined by the Blue Moon Orchestra for a rousing version of his classic, *I Fought the Law*.

After an interval, Griffith was back centre stage, showcasing songs from her new album, *Blue Roses from the Moons*. With songs that are by turns melancholic and buoyant, and performed flawlessly by the finest players around, this show is a tour de force.

NICK KELLY

EN
O
Box Office
0171 632 8300
May 14 | 20 | 23 | 28 | 30
June 12 | 14 | 18
20 | 23 at 7.30pm
May 17 at 6.30pm
Tickets from £6.50

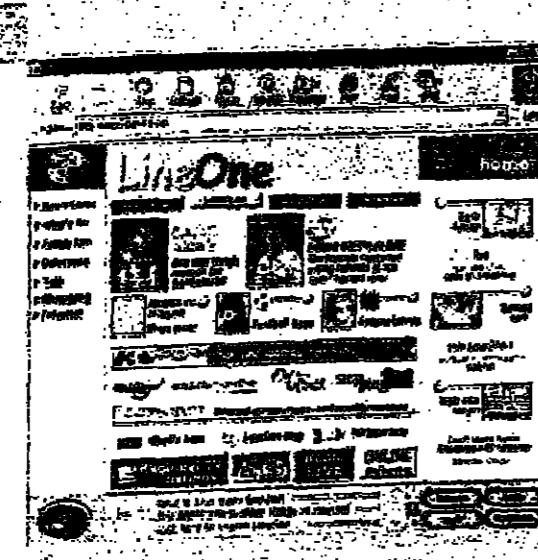
La
traviata



www.LineOne.net

Call for your free software pack now!

0800 111 210



More news, more facts, more fun.

LineOne, the new UK Internet service from BT and News International, is designed just for you, but has something for everyone.

Exclusive UK content, including news and sport from Sky and the UK's top newspapers, local "What's On" listings, forums, computer games and reference information.

Fast and easy Internet access with BT's award-winning Internet network. Plus LineOne's unique Intelligent Agent, AJ, will show you around.

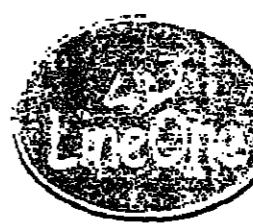
Unlimited access to LineOne and the Internet, for just £14.95 per month, including 5 e-mail addresses for you and your family. So you don't have to pay by the hour.

Now you can try LineOne for free.

One month's free membership.

10 hours' free access to LineOne and the Internet.

*Or get on-line using the free Rich List CD-ROM packed in your copy of The Sunday Times on 5.4.97.



BT
BRITISH TELECOM

**CHOICE 1**

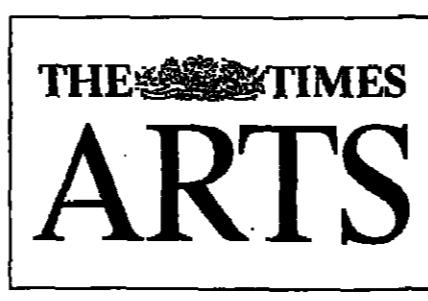
Corin Redgrave is Marat in Jeremy Sams's production of Marat/Sade

VENUE: In preview from tonight at the Olivier

**CHOICE 2**

Jonathan Miller's La traviata is revived by English National Opera

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Coliseum in London

**THEATRE 1**

Prima donna portrayed: Master Class is an absorbing Terrence McNally play about Maria Callas

**THEATRE 2**

... but at Chichester Lady Windermere's Fan barely comes to life, despite sumptuous frocks

Duchess
a little
genius

LONDON

MARAT/SADE Corin Redgrave plays Marat. David Calder's Marquis and Anatol. Hale plays Choderlos L'Évin. In James Sams's production, the two parts of the play are split between London and Hyannis.

National (Olivier) South Bank SE1 (0171 928 2250). Preview begins tonight, 7.15pm. Opens May 17pm. Until June 19. Rep. with the Caucasian Chalk Circle.

MY MOTHER IS NEVER Stratford-upon-Avon. A touching exploration of the mother-daughter bond, said to be the most frequently performed play in Britain. Dominic Cooke directs Jane Lowe. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Helen Moore for GoodStage Co. To touring or duration.

Young Vic 66 The Cut, SE1 (0171 928 2272). Open May 12. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; matins Tues and Thurs, 3pm. Until May 31.

LA TRAVIATA Louis Houldam directs Verdi's *National Opera* as a revival of Jonathan Miller's production of Verdi's tragic tale of self-delusion. Some scenes, including the famous *Vilaine*, will be cut. With Christopher Booth-Jones and Julie Young as the father and son who bring Verdi's sombre plot to life.

7.30pm. Then May 14, 17 to 30pm, 20, 23, 26, 30, June 12, 14, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30pm.

BAILEYGANGAIRE Welcome revival of Tom Murphy's mesmeric play where Brian Cox's Marlon Brando and his daughter (Bridget Balmer, Ruth McCabe) in suspense, waiting to hear the arrival of a late of distant tragedie James Macdonald directs.

Rehearsals continue at the Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171 565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat. Sat, 4pm.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Oxford's new home is the half Broadway musical. Julie Maroh Brightwell and Michael Ball star as the Beast, with support from the likes of Denise Gough and Norman Rossington.

Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171 416 6600). Now previewing. 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sun, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 2.30pm.

EMBRACE In Daniel Hecht's courtroom comedy set in the days of a rare man, including Andie MacDowell and Alexander Hanson, plus members of an army unit intended to neutralise him, they laid apart Tony Johnson directs.

Hampstead, Savile Cottage, Camden NW3 (0171 723 9311). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sat, 3.30pm. Until May 17.

FRANKLY SCARLETT Farce comedy about the making of that film starring Judi Dench, Penelope Keith, David Troughton, Philip Glenister, Peter Mullan and Philip George who directs King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1.

NEW RELEASES

THE BOY FROM MERCURY (PG) After eight years and boy does he do that he carries on into stardom. Still but sweet Irish film director Martin Duffy ABC/Swans Centre (0171 439 4470).

DONNIE BRASCO (18) FBI agent Johnny Depp befriends mobster Al Capone in this biopic directed by Brian Helgeland (0171 256 5964).

WHITEY (15) Don't be afraid to look like a fool. Director Brian Helgeland (0171 256 5964).

MARGARET'S MUSEUM (15) Helene Bonham Carter stars in a Nova Scotia drama about a woman who becomes a nun. Directed by Michael Winterbottom (0171 256 5964).

ABC/Possibly (0171 437 3361) Tottenham Court Road (0171 256 5964).

LUR LIAR (12) Lawyer Jen Carrey gets 20 years for lying. Amiable comedy, 201 and round the edges. Directed by Eddie Baker (0171 256 5964).

THE ABC BAKER (12) (0171 256 5964).

FEMALE PERVERSIONS (13) Tilda Swinton's tawdry comedy. Directed by Gillian Armstrong (0171 256 5964).

ABC/Possibly (0171 437 3361) Tottenham Court Road (0171 256 5964).

CURRENT (0171 256 5964) Virgin Cinema (0171 256 5964).

EDDIE (12) (0171 256 5964) Goldring borrows a basketball court. Yester

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

ELSEWHERE

BEVERLEY The Beverley and East Riding Early Music Festival opens. Includes performances by the Beverley Minster at 7pm featuring singer from all over the region. This year's festival, the tenth, includes lunchtime concerts, workshops for children, a medieval night and night. Guest artists include the Galician Consort, Folkwest, Sami, Rev. Priest and theorist Paul Chausson.

GOVENTRY The Coventry and Warwickshire Orchestra begins a tour of Britain under the baton of Paul Roger. The orchestra's programme includes Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* and Rimsky-Korsakoff's *Scheherazade*.

MANCHESTER The Manchester International Festival opens with a performance by the Royal Exchange, Upper Chapel Street, 7pm. From 7.30pm. Open Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm. Until June 7.

STRATFORD Alan Juddman in the role of Hamlet, Matthew Warshaw's strong cast production with Dorothy Crotty, Paul Freeman, David Ryall and Edward Petherbridge. Repertoire includes *Winterset*.

LONDON Christopher Halfpenny Lococo's recent *Richard III* with Simon Williams' recent paintings, Cavin Russell's recent sculpture (0171 439 6869).

SHREWSBURY The Great White Serpent (0171 629 0681).

WORCESTER George Large (0171 620 1322).

WORCESTER Royal Society of Portrait Painters exhibition.

WORCESTER Brian Ashton's "Archaeology and Reconstruction" (0171 223 4700).

WORCESTER Ha Shou Young: Innovation in Abstraction (0171 342 3767).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of the theatre showing in London.

HOUSE FOR ALL Return only

SEATS Seats available

SEATS Seats at all prices

67844444

tomorrow, Sheffield, City Hall

0114 273 5295 Sat/2nd

MANCHESTER Marianne Elliott

0161 205 1000 Sat/2nd and moving

Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, where two

incarnations are entangled in love

and obsession, betrayal and regret,

Royal Exchange, Upper Chapel

Street, 7pm. From 7.30pm. Open

July 10-13. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat.

Wed, 2.30pm. Until June 7.

STRAFFORD Alan Juddman in the

role of Hamlet, Matthew Warshaw's

strong cast production with Dorothy

Crotty, Paul Freeman, David Ryall and

Edward Petheridge. Repertoire

includes *Winterset*.

LONDON Christopher Halfpenny

Lococo's recent *Richard III* with

Simon Williams (0171 439 6869).

SHREWSBURY The Great White

Serpent (0171 629 0681).

WORCESTER George Large (0171 620 1322).

WORCESTER Royal Society of

Portrait Painters exhibition.

WORCESTER Brian Ashton's "Archaeology and Reconstruction" (0171 223 4700).

WORCESTER Ha Shou Young:

Innovation in Abstraction (0171 342 3767).

THEATRE

ARTS**For whom the curtain calls**

Straight or (a better word here) straightish plays do not run a year and a half on Broadway without being either decidedly bad or decidedly good. I know operaphiles who would place Terrence McNally's *Master Class* in the first category, arguing that its portrait of Maria Callas in the schoolroom cheapens a complex woman for the sake of glib laugh-lines. But when I saw Zoe Caldwell in the role 18

THEATRE**Master Class**

Queens

months ago I was hugely taken by her performance, and concluded that there must be something right with a piece which allowed her to embody fastidiousness, irony, egotism, rigour, bitterness, vulnerability and more.

I still feel that way, even though Patti LuPone lacks the same range. She is effective when painful memories come *heaving up from her stomach*; less so when it comes to catching the astuteness, the Greek bluntness, the brusque pride: "Rivals?" How can you have rivals when no one else can do what you do? LuPone would doubtless sing better than Caldwell, but McNally's Callas does so only for a sad moment meant to demonstrate that, by 1971, when the play occurs, the great voice is in ruins.

McNally conceived the play as a solo turn, then added a pianist and three aspiring singers, transposed the action to Juilliard for the Broadway production, and now relocates it in a vaguely Grecian hall. This means that although Callas dominates the stage even when she retreats to her stool with a disingenuous "Poof! I'm invisible", her monomaniac commitment to her Muse comes across more dramatically.

IT RESURRECTED a languishing career for Wilde, but *Lady Windermere's Fan* needs a spark of genius to transform it into a credible comedy for the 1990s. Richard Cottrell's period production at the Chichester Festival Theatre is one of the most sumptuously dressed I've ever seen, but there is barely a flicker of credibility about it. Perhaps we are too used to seeing the upper classes draped around heroin habits and persons of easy virtue.

Whatever this quaint scandal, where a lady's fan is discovered in the wrong gentleman's apartment, is an entirely rose-tinted affair.

On a set that would grace a Saudi Arabian palace, Siri Oneal's young and puritanical *Lady Windermere* is caught in

a little soul into the plump girl in frilly pink (Sophia Wylie), who trills through Amina's lament in *La Sonnambula* sounding as if she has lost a chocolate bar to the school bully, not a rural Onassis to a pristine Jackie Kennedy. She brooks a cocky tenor (David Anderson) into giving a performance of *Recondita armonia* from Tosca that briefly reduces her to tears. She is denounced as a destructive and self-destructive

monster by the edgy, ambitious soprano (Susan Roper) she has guided through *Lady Macbeth*'s letter-writing scene.

By then it is clear that Callas is a lot more than that. There are times when neither McNally's script nor LuPone's performance disguises the tension inherent in an evening that asks us both to laugh at the wayward diva and respect the dedicated professional and wounded woman. Perhaps the

she injects a little soul into the plump girl in frilly pink (Sophia Wylie), who trills through Amina's lament in *La Sonnambula* sounding as if she has lost a chocolate bar to the school bully, not a rural Onassis to a pristine Jackie Kennedy. She brooks a cocky tenor (David Anderson) into giving a performance of *Recondita armonia* from Tosca that briefly reduces her to tears. She is denounced as a destructive and self-destructive

longish episodes when the stage darkens, LuPone's haggard face is spotlit, and the voice of the singer is heard on disc, while the woman remembers Onassis's coarse boastfulness and contempt for her music. Some of this, notably the time he forced her to have an abortion, feels sickly. But it helps to remind us who Callas was, and why.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

the malicious wit of a young, upper-class uncatchable young stripe off a crusty moral dither.

It is left to Googie Withers's Duchess of Berwick to instil a pacemaker on fervently beating hearts. She sails through the production like the Queen Mother celebrating her 20th birthday, all bosom, feathers and parasol, wrapping scandal up in a blank like a Victorian agony aunt. If only she could have stifled the needless excesses of this baroque melodrama.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

the malicious wit of a young, upper-class uncatchable young stripe off a crusty moral dither.

It is left to Googie Withers's Duchess of Berwick to instil a pacemaker on fervently beating hearts. She sails through the production like the Queen Mother celebrating her 20th birthday, all bosom, feathers and parasol, wrapping scandal up in a blank like a Victorian agony aunt. If only she could have stifled the needless excesses of this baroque melodrama.

TOP: MARISSA EBY

ABOVE: PATTI LUPOONE

BETWEEN: JENNIFER CALDWELL

RIGHT: ZOE CALDWELL

TOP: MARISSA EBY

ABOVE: PATTI LUPOONE

BETWEEN: JENNIFER CALDWELL

RIGHT: ZOE CALDWELL

There are all kinds of philosophers: some narrowly focused on particular aspects of philosophy, others wide-ranging in their interests; some introverted, others gregarious. Tony Kenny's interests are wide, his disposition sociable. Accordingly this, the second part of his autobiography, is accessible to a wide audience — although a reader interested in the world of ideas will enjoy it most. Even those who are not of a philosophical bent will, however, be engrossed by his insider's account of Oxford from the early 1960s to the late 1980s.

Because he came to philosophy through his training in the scholastic tradition while studying for the priesthood in the Gregorian University in Rome, Tony Kenny's thinking has never been narrowly dominated by the British analytic tradition. He is highly critical, however, of the arid and uninteresting way in which Aristotelian and Thomistic philosophy was taught in the Gregorian, and most of the philosophy that he then absorbed, together with his un-English sense of the genius of

The Master's Last Supper at High Table

Garret FitzGerald

A LIFE IN OXFORD
By Anthony Kenny
John Murray, £20
ISBN 0 7195 5060 0

Thomas Aquinas, came paradoxically from his theological studies at that institution.

The issues he has tackled in a lifetime of research and publication have been extensive — ranging from such topics as God's existence, faith, and free will, to specific moral issues like nuclear deterrence and the definition of murder.

He addressed the latter subject after taking Bar Examinations late in life, conscious of the danger that failure in these tests might well have provoked the headline: "Master of Balliol flunks elementary examination". Typically, he

remarks that one of the advantages of being a law student around 1980 was that in that capacity he received the circulars of the National Union of Students "and thus became privy to whatever mischief was brewing against Vice-Chancellors and Heads of Oxbridge Houses".

In 1978 he visited Czechoslovakia with his wife Nancy in support of the philosopher-dissident Professor Julius Tomín. A seminar on Aristotle in Tomín's flat was broken up by the secret police. Nancy and he, after interrogation in police headquarters — where he was berated for talking philosophy with a "group of criminals" — were taken to the border and left to find their way, carrying their baggage, across a valley to a German frontier post. These events became something of a *cause célèbre* at the time.

His reflections on the morality of nuclear deterrence led him in his



Kenny: warm-hearted

book on *The Logic of Deterrence* to the uncompromising conclusion that whatever the merits of a nuclear deterrent that would not be used as an alternative to surrender, if someone arguing for the deterrent "says and means that 'you must go right in and use it if it ever comes to the crunch'... then I

can only tell him, quite soberly, that he is a man with murder in his heart."

Kenny recounts that on one occasion when seated next to Caspar Weinberger, then US Secretary of Defense, at an Oxford Union dinner, he apologised for having become heated on this subject, adding that "if you have the power to destroy the world, you must expect people to get excited when talking to you". "But perhaps", Weinberger replied, "I have the power to save it too." Not since the Last Supper, Tony Kenny remarks, had such a claim been made over the dinner table.

When Roy Jenkins succeeded Harold Macmillan as Chancellor of Oxford, Tony Kenny and myself were amongst his honorees. While he was an obvious choice for the Chancellor's list, I felt that my own inclusion owed something to the rejection by the Congregation of the University of an earlier

proposal to honour Margaret Thatcher. As I found when I went over the incoming Chancellor's honorees back to 1904, almost every outstanding British politician of the century was included at one time or another. But in the light of the incumbent Prime Minister's earlier rejection by the Congregation of the University, Roy Jenkins clearly could not include her name on his list — nor could he very well honour other British politicians. And that, I feel, was how I came in, as the next best thing to a British politician!

Ireland is indebted to Tony Kenny for his generous interest in the Northern Ireland problem which he has demonstrated by his involvement in the British/Irish Association and by his Vice-Chairmanship of the unofficial Kilbrandon Commission, which studied and reported on the work of the New Ireland Forum.

The Commission rightly criti-

MICHAEL BENNETT

Caught fast in the net

Sadie Plant

HARD, SOFT AND WET
The Digital Generation Comes of Age
By Melanie McGrath
HarperCollins, £16.99
ISBN 0 00 255386 7

THE engaging record of Melanie McGrath's explorations of digital culture, *Hard, Soft, and Wet*, is at once a romance, a cultural commentary, and a piece of travel writing which adds the virtual world to its itinerary as though it were a new place on the map. Spanning several countries and detailing relationships with a wealth of characters — including Nancy, Nancy's friend Clare, Daniel the DJ, not to mention the two Macs (one a computer, the other a young man) — this is also a personal account of intense friendships and emotions. McGrath writes with an intimacy which might well feel gratuitous if it weren't for the perverse extent to which the Net itself seems to demand such confidential tones. E-mail and on-line conversation can be far more intimate than face-to-face exchanges between best friends. E-mail is described as "an imperfect form of telepathy".



FIRST INDEPENDENT

Embracing virtuality

This is a story in which everything grows up, old, or at least used to the digital world. What begins as an alien culture, young and seductive, becomes familiar, routine, and far more diverse by the end of the book. First waves of enthusiasm give way to the reflective waters in which this book so elegantly swims.

As the Net and computers come of age, McGrath sees herself growing up as well. It is a compelling parallel, and McGrath is perfectly poised to record the unique qualities of this slice of history. But there are times when it also runs the risk of reducing a decade of technological and cultural change to a tale of personal growth and development.

When she draws her conclusions in Singapore, McGrath discovers that what appeared to be her quest for the future was more of a search for eternal youth, an attempt to keep the realities of adult life at bay. All of which is immensely plausible, but far less engaging than the astute portrayals of people, conversations, and encounters which give this book its edge.

Sadie Plant's Zeros and Ones: Unmanning the Culture of the Future will be published in August by Fourth Estate.

Bearing mute witness

Michael Arditti

THE DUMB HOUSE
By John Burnside
Cape, £9.99
ISBN 0 224 04376 7

GIVEN that empathy is the essence of fiction, it comes as a shock to encounter a protagonist so detached from conventional responses that he regards other people as objects, of interest only to the extent that they relate to him. That shock is intensified when he narrates his own story with intelligence and a sensitivity to language. Such was the case with Tarquin Winet in John Lanchester's *The Debt to Pleasure* and it is repeated in John Burnside's debut novel, *The Dumb House*.

The novel's unnamed narrator is obsessed with the function of language: its ability to give shape and meaning to the universe. Inspired by the Persian myth of Akbar the Great, who filled a palace (the Dumb House) with newborn children, attended only by mimes, in an attempt to find whether speech was intrinsic, he sets out to discover the secrets of language.

He regards himself as a scientist "wholly dedicated to the experiment", but, from his first encounter with a strangely docile woman whom he violates and her silent son whom he assaults, it is clear that his objectivity is compromised. He compares himself to da Vinci or Vesalius, but, when he subjects his own twins to deprivation and violence, he steps closer to the Dr Knox who employed Burke and Hare.

Burnside makes no attempt to explain his protagonist's psychopathy, although it is undoubtedly connected with his dead mother, for whom he has a Norman Bates-like obsession. She encouraged his morbid tendencies by showing him the corpses of animals and his inhuman detachment by telling him the story of the Dumb House. Her abiding presence and the rituals he performs at her death recall Ian McEwan.

This is a demanding novel, as single-minded in its prose as in its narrator's purpose. From the first paragraph, it is evident that words are to be Burnside's theme as much as his medium. He skilfully exposes the limitations of language while asserting the power of fiction to reveal what lies behind speech.



Who's a cheeky monkey?

Alain de Botton vocalises his praise of a novelist who satirises the human race with chimpunty

for his canvas of the King's Cross fire, and who leads a riotous life, taking copious quantities of drugs and alcohol. After a particularly heavy night at Soho's Sealink Club (a wank at the Groucho), Simon wakes up in bed with more than just a hang-over. Something is not right, for his girlfriend Sarah hasn't grown rather hirsute overnight. She is also letting out a few grunts. In fact, as Simon realises to his horror, she has become a chimpanzee.

Not Sarah thinks anything of this. Everyone is a chimpanzee, she tells him: when Simon looks outside, the streets are filled with chimps

going about their business. They're swinging from trees, copulating in parks and inspecting each other's rear in the street. When Simon says it's all crazy, he is quickly declared insane, and a medical team carry him off to Charing Cross Hospital where he is kept in a secure room. There he is put into the care of an affable chimp psychiatrist called

Zach Busner, who teaches him to come to terms with his own chimpanzee. Simon gradually accepts that he isn't human, that this is merely a delusion caused by damage to brain tissue, and that the chimp way of life is the best there is.

It is Self's credit that this satire

should end up as more than an intellectual conceit.

The book's charm lies in the obvious delight Self takes in reinventing our world along chimp lines.

First there is chimp vocabulary: the apex speak of someone having chimpunty (humanity), when they lose their temper, they go humanshit (apeshit).

while on chimp television, Anton Mosichimp and Lloyd Grosschimp host a popular cookery programme. Sex never lasts more than a few minutes, incest is the greatest treat for the kids, and being allowed to sniff someone's anus is a privilege. In Regent's Park we see Sloaney chimp mothers "vocalise to one another with the extended grunts of their class" while a slap-up breakfast consists of a bowl of well-chewed sloe berries.

Of course, as in the best satires, this journey through the alien world of chimps is at heart a deeply serious (and even moving) call for us to reconsider the shortcomings of the human world. Self's achievement is to show us how we might all benefit from getting in touch with the chimp inside us.

Despite the ravages of war Vietnam can be lovable, says Jonathan Mirsky

Of Mae and Ho

A s in everything Gavin

Young has written — when he was a star at *The Observer* in its great days and in wonderful books like *Slow Boats to China* and *In Search of Conrad* — *A Wavering Grace* brings the atmosphere of Vietnam so near that you can almost taste and smell it. As usual, too, this memoir of a Vietnamese family Mr Young loved over many years and of the country he has the courage to call "lovable" contains many good little stories and in this case one unbeatable one.

In 1968, Mr Young, who had reported the war in Vietnam for three years, interrupted an interview in New York with Mae West, then in her seventies, to rush back to Vietnam to cover the battle for Hué, the imperial Vietnamese capital.

Shaken by the destruction of the city, he returned to New York and Mae West. Hearing he'd just been in "Vietnam", she said: "I used to know someone very very important there... His name was — uh — let's say — Ho... Ho... Ho something."

Mr Young was staggered but Ms West told him: "You'd better believe it... I never lie." During the Twenties, she went on, she was starring in her

United States) watched Vietnam, "like a rare and beautiful butterfly", crushed between the two sides. But Mr Young observed that: "The boisterous American presence hid Vietnam like a crude curtain. The true Vietnam slid by unnoticed if one was not careful; but the movement and colour of this gorgeous country remained."

He contemplates ending his days in a delta village "where the rice fields stretch away...

like a shining emerald counterpane", among "these loving, adorable people... my favourites in the world."

This is the sentimental Mr Young — and why not? There is also Mr Young, the war reporter, holding a dying Vietnamese soldier in his arms whose chest has been torn open by a shell fragment. Mr Young presses his own hand to the warm liquid mass where his stomach had been. "The boy says 'hurt me,'" and soon dies. "I remember feeling this was the end of everything. There was nothing else to do... one might as well stay here for ever."

He got up instead and eventually gave us this delicate, terrible, and enchanting hook.



Portrait at the Perfume Pagoda: from Mitch Epstein's *Vietnam: A Book of Changes* (W. W. Norton, £25)

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

SPECIAL OFFER

SAVE £2 ON PUBLISHER'S RRP OF £20
THE ROY STRONG DIARIES 1967-1987

Only £18 with free postage and packing in the UK

- You can also buy ANY English-language book currently in print
- FREE UK p&p • Delivery in 7-10 days, subject to availability
- 24-hour service. Staff available 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 4pm Sunday.

CALL: 0345 660 916 CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE

Call +44 990 134 459 from overseas and the Republic of Ireland, fax +44 1326 374 688, e-mail: bookshop@the-times.co.uk

Or post coupon to: News Books, FREEPOST, PO Box 345, Farnham, TR11 2BR.

Please send me these books (order additional titles on a separate sheet):

Qty Title/Author Total Price

Far from the finish line

John Maddox
wonders whether
scientific ends might
not be simply
new beginnings

John Horgan is an intelligent and reflective writer for *Scientific American*; his book is intelligent but perverse. The title, *The End of Science*, is the message: "The method appears to have been to interview people, not always scientists, who are uncertain where science will go from here, weaving their opinions into an argument." Implicitly, Horgan supposes a future free from big surprises. But the supposition is not exclusively implicit; writing of the problem of telling how life began on the surface of the Earth, he says that if living things were discovered on other planets, "we would have to think again". It will be interesting to see how long delayed the rethink will be.

I must declare an interest: I have spent a long time — my publishers would say too long a time — writing a book called *What Remains to be Discovered*. The starting-point, the state of science now, is much the same, but the conclusions are quite the opposite. I conclude (and do believe) that, far from being near its end, science is only just beginning. How is it that two people can reach such different conclusions from essentially the same material?

Each of us notes, for example, that the decade at the end of the 19th century was a

THE END OF SCIENCE
By John Horgan
Little, Brown, £19.99
ISBN 0 316 64052 2

previous occasion when the practitioners of science believed that everything worth doing had been done. There were a few unexplained phenomena — X-rays (discovered in 1895), radioactivity (the following year) and the electron (in 1897) — but nobody seriously believed that any one of these contradictions could undermine the great enterprise of mechanics founded by Newton more than two centuries earlier. Yet by 1925 it was all gone, buried beneath Einstein's two theories of relativity and the communal development of quantum mechanics, which is the most penetrating (and successful) theory of how matter moves yet devised.

Horgan's failure, in my opinion, is that he hardly lifts a finger to catalogue the contradictions or lacunae now apparent in science's scheme of things. The dark spots may at present be voids on the horizon of contemplation, too bigger than a man's hand, but who can tell that none of them will prove substantive? One, for example, is that it has not yet proved possible to devise a "quantum theory of gravity". That is important because you cannot otherwise claim to understand the earliest phases of the "Big Bang" from which our Universe is supposed to have sprung (but there are other contradictions as well).

Horgan relates that he had the good luck attend (as a reporter) a meeting in Sweden at which some of those involved with quantum gravity (Stephen Hawking included) talked about solutions to their common problem; Horgan formed the impression that what they were saying was "preposterous" and claims that an anonymous "attendee" agreed with him. Plainly he misinterpreted speculations for pronouncements of the truth. Whether there is such a thing as final truth, of course, an open question.

WHEN James Lasdun and I were compiling our book *After Ovid* — 60 stories from the *Metamorphoses*, done into English by 40 contemporary poets — I experienced a "Darien moment" of pure awe (Keats's sonnet *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer*) when Ted Hughes's contributions arrived. This was literary history as I had never felt it, before or since.

Standing by the telephone to appease my sense of urgency, I read his 30 or 40 pages right off, and then scribbled a note urging him to go on and do an *Ovid* book all of his own. I claim no particular discernment for saying so, but my great delight he's done it and it's even better than I first imagined.

The greatest and simplest and most mysterious thing about *Tales from Ovid* is just how comfortable Hughes is with the material. There is no stretching, no fooling around for the gallery. It's as though Hughes found nothing alien or remote or intractable about *Ovid* at all: not the passing of 2,000 years, not the big mythological system, not the lists as long as your arms of dried-up rivers, hunting dogs or numerous sailors. Hughes is as broad as *Ovid* and as subtle, as violent and as erotic, as elegant and as folksy — and often all at the same time. It is simply a beautiful match.

If there can be such a thing as *poème-fleurie* to match the *roman-fleurie*, it would have to be the *Metamorphoses*. Even the 24 excerpts, reduced to the 24 tales that most caught Hughes's imagination, this book is like a river: only water does justice to the *Metamorphoses*, these stories of the cominglings and forklings of the human and the divine, the human and the natural, the polytheistic and the psycho-



Small discoveries may lead to larger revelations: electron micrograph image of the staphylococcus bacteria

That, I believe, is the essential difference between us. Horgan shares the view that there are such things as the "laws of physics" (or of chemistry, or biology) that, when discovered in their authentic form, will turn the rest of the field concerned into stamp-collecting. My own opinion, sustained by the history of the fields of which Horgan writes and others, is that progress most often consists of asking familiar questions in more penetrating ways. Aristotle, after all, asked some of the questions that later occupied Newton, but only Newton asked them perceptively — and he was then to be superseded by Einstein.

Even in booming molecular biology, the same process is at work. Take the regulation of the activity of genes. For this, there has been one of the central problems. The mechanism was first revealed (as a near molecular switch) in bacteria, and then found not to apply in other organisms. Then people began identifying small patches of DNA near the genes in higher organisms that seemed to be involved in their regulation. At the outset, each new element was hailed as the vital one; now, when a typical gene may have half a dozen controlling elements, people seem willing to accept that there may be even more of them. That, of course, does not

mean that the hunt for gene regulators is lapsing into chaos, but merely that the mechanism is one that is subtle and probably flexible. Nobody fears that there will be no answer.

Simpler questions about genes raise more intriguing problems. Why, for example, are the genes in higher organisms arranged along the length of a finite stretch of DNA, but those of bacteria arranged on circular chromosomes? And why do people have 46 linear chromosomes while all the great apes have 48? None of this is pointless inquiry, nor is it "ironic science" — Horgan's name for untestable and fanciful theories.

There are many detailed issues to dispute in Horgan's book, but there is one sense in which it is "preposterous" (to use his word). Quantum gravity is a central unsolved problem. So is the understanding of the origin of life. Then there is the business of the evolution of human beings in the past 4.5 million years, from which we shall learn our cultural history. It will be time to write about *The End of Science* when all these questions have been answered — except that science will by then have taken up other goals.

Sir John Maddox, Editor Emeritus of Nature, is the author of What Remains to be Discovered, to be published by Macmillan early next year.

What came After Ovid

logical, the erotic and the catastrophic.

The metamorphoses have metamorphoses, either in the form of compository tales-within-tales, or lesser stories backed up in a sort of dead arm, or just the little almost subliminal swirls of embellishment, often of a watery

Michael Hofmann

TALES FROM OVID
By Ted Hughes
Faber, £14.99
ISBN 0 571 177 99 X

character. Newly arrived in the Underworld, Narcissus heads straight for the River Styx to get another look at himself: a pack of hunting dogs "flowed over the landscape"; Pygmalion's "brain swan" as he contemplates the naked form of Galatea.

HUGHES'S language is dynamic and forceful, but also quick on its feet. Without being self-advertisingly modern (like Lowell's *Initiations* or Christopher Logue's versions from Homer), he makes a series of well-judged borrowings from the worlds of technology, psychology and — very effectively — comic books: a god may "materialise", poison is "activated" by heat, Juno rises from her throne

"like a puff of smoke from a volcano".

His chosen medium for *Ovid's hexameters* is free verse. T. S. Eliot once said that no verse is free for the man wanting to do a good job, but up until now I had never felt the truth of that: there was always something lazy or corrupt or inadequate about the idea. Hughes's free verse is a thing of utter wonder: the play of letters and syllables — I think we move more by sound than by rhythm — is exquisitely controlled and thrilling to follow. The meaningless luxury poured on Terence, whose mind is on incest: "The sun went down / A royal banquet glittered and steamed / The guests, replete, slept."

MIDAS'S ass's ears wrapped

"in a turban superb! As compensation could be". How the word "alive" is synthesized in another line about Pygmalion's Galatea: "Life-size, ivory, as if alive." Her perfect figure lay in its studio."

In the verse, you hear millennial echoes, ghosts of the alliterative half-line of Anglo-Saxon ("His arms are lean legs.") of Renaissance fluency ("As among vipers, / elegances of a viper, or a swan's grace among swans.") of modern mixed diction ("Pan is the real thing — the true voice / Of the subterranean, / of universal and unclassifiable lyric beauty: "Her running redoubled her beauty! / The ribbon-ties at her ankles! Were the wing-tips of swallows! / The ribbon-ties at her knees! Were the wing-tips of swifts."

Tales from Ovid is the best thing Hughes has done, the most musical English verse since Bunting, the greatest poem of Classical inspiration probably since the *Canterbury Tales*. It will live as one of the great works of our century.

Alistair Horne

UNDER TWO FLAGS
The Life of Major General Sir Edward Spears
By Max Egremont
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25
ISBN 0 297 81347 1

In August 1914, the British and French armies were reeling back in disarray before the Kaiser's onslaught. Few knew precisely what was happening or even where the respective armies were. One who did was a 28-year-old Lieutenant, temporary Captain of the cavalry, Edward Louis Spears, who was attached to General Lanrezac because of his fluency in French.

Spears's contribution in these darkest days of the First World War was reckoned then to have been "the most extraordinary week's work that any British subaltern has ever done"; in the words of the author of this admirable biography, Max Egremont, he had simply "saved the British Expeditionary Force".

Wounded four times in the course of his 1914-1918 liaison services, he was rated by Winston Churchill as "indeed a Paladin, worthy to rank with the true knights of the great days of romance".

In the late Twenties, picked up by his champion to become a right-wing Tory MP, Spears published his own account of the war, entitled *Liaison 1914*. A work responding to French distortions of Britain's role, and therefore one with its own prejudicial bias, it nevertheless remains one of the great

classics of war literature.

In the debacle of 1940, Spears was called back to perform a similar function with the French, and here began a stormy — and eventually disastrous — relationship with de Gaulle. They were two men of brilliance, with vast egos and enormous chips on their shoulders. In his later years, Spears liked to relate how he had literally yanked the future leader of France aboard the last plane leaving Bordeaux; this version of the

tale was hotly disputed by de Gaulle's entourage, and it is diplomatically skirted by Max Egremont.

Spears ended his military career heading the British mission to the French Levant, where he set himself up as a kind of latter-day Lawrence, espousing the cause of Arab liberation and gaining the lasting hatred of de Gaulle and the French.

Retrofitted from the Army, and out of politics after a sad final split with Churchill, Spears

went into business where he set himself up, Rhodes-like, at the head of Ashanti Goldfields — finally to be ousted by an even larger ego: Tiny Rowlands.

As a young author, I recall Spears in old age — gratefully — as immensely generous both of his time and hospitality. He provided invaluable material on France for three books, not only on the two world wars but also on the 1870 Siege of Paris, where his French Rafinesque family

Valiant Paladin of two world wars



Cause of indigestion? De Gaulle lunches with Spears in 1944, after the flight from Bordeaux

had died mysteriously, noises from the attic room next to Lewis's.

"It is too soon for you to learn everything," Valentina's mother warns Lewis, but is powerless to prevent his encounter with a trinity of violence, sex and death. Lewis has his own views. "Beauty," he states at the start of the story, "causes alteration ... Alteration may frequently result in some accident or other." Since he meets both beauty and knowledge in a terrible manner, the experience proves to be irredeemable.

This is a novel whose craft is quite simply magnificent. Its structures are forged in steel and yet they are built with the lightest of touches. The text is rich in allusion, irony and shimmering resonance. Images of flying, falling and of the bridge crowd Lewis's altered perception as he moves from one state to another. "Mum" turns into a stranger called Alice, the transition between sexual fantasy and the experience is made. His teenage appetite is transmuted into a stronger hunger and, thus, Lewis walks the roofs knowing that roads are dangerous.

Lewis is not in the mould of the majority of adolescents. Either the reader decides to accept him, or abandon reading. Like the author, he or she must take a risk but will be repaid. *The Way I Found Her* is magical invention of page-turning suspense, of sadness, grief and passion, whose sure and delicate exposure of a sensibility flowering one hot Parisian summer teaches us the price of experience. Do not miss it.



Tremain: magical prose

to religious solutions as to political ones.

What is believed in seems at first less important to the writer than the fact of faith. Communism or Catholicism — he implies that either might do. Isolation is the disease and love the remedy. Gradually a shift comes, with an emphasis on communion, the love-feast, the idea that the early Christians "found real salvation from the lust for self-salvation" in a vision of agape. The progress of the prose records is a pilgrim's progress.

And yet, what an artful pilgrim! Behind that face like a wedding cake left out in the rain there was always a mind like a can of queer worms. That line about love got rejected because it was not true enough, the final Auden insisting with perfect orthodoxy that we must love one another and die. The church lost a good bishop when Auden made up his mind to become a poet (at half-past three one afternoon in March, 1923 — see page 332).

Spirit of Ariel and Caliban

Robert Nye

AUDEN'S PROSE
Volume I: 1926-38
Edited by Edward Mendelson
Faber, £40
ISBN 0 571 17899 5

Ariel's voice is heard in such pieces as *Writing*, a contribution to a book for children: "People write in order to be read. They would like to be read by everybody, and for ever", and "Rhythm is what is expected by one word or another". There is an admirable directness and lack of pretension about such remarks. Caliban sounds in some of the criticism written for T. S. Eliot's magazine *The Criterion*, where Auden's usual fluency seems throttled by his desire to impress his editor.

On individual writers, Auden is always memorable, especially in the bits of letters quoted in the notes. Dylan Thomas is "exciting up to a point, but I wish I didn't feel the excitement was simply the exhilaration of being very tight". James Reeves is "like Graves but genuine not bogus Graves". As for Spender: "I find the spectacle of Stephen trying to be heterosexual acutely embarrassing."

Auden left instructions to his friends to burn all his letters, but on this evidence a volume of his correspondence must not be long delayed. It is notable that from about 1932, Auden gives as much weight

to religious solutions as to political ones.

What is believed in seems at first less important to the writer than the fact of faith. Communism or Catholicism — he implies that either might do. Isolation is the disease and love the remedy. Gradually a shift comes, with an emphasis on communion, the love-feast, the idea that the early Christians "found real salvation from the lust for self-salvation" in a vision of agape. The progress of the prose records is a pilgrim's progress.

And yet, what an artful pilgrim! Behind that face like a wedding cake left out in the rain there was always a mind like a can of queer worms. That line about love got rejected because it was not true enough, the final Auden insisting with perfect orthodoxy that we must love one another and die. The church lost a good bishop when Auden made up his mind to become a poet (at half-past three one afternoon in March, 1923 — see page 332).

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography,
Religious, Poetry, Children.
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 CALIFORNIA ROAD, LONDON NW1 2QG

BRITISH RED CROSS

Sponsored section

In the charity's fundraising week, Ros Drinkwater looks at how its role and profile is changing to meet the modern demands of Britain

In war and in peace, the group that brings comfort

On a 1991 visit to refugees in Croatia, Michael Whitlam, the then newly appointed Director-General of the British Red Cross, found himself under fire. Stuck in a bunker under mortar bombardment, his response was characteristic. Noting the hour, he decided to capitalise on the PR potential and using the wind-up field telephone, gave Radio 4's *Toddy* programme an impromptu live interview.

The origins of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement dates back to the battle of Solferino in 1859, when the horror of war so shocked Swiss businessman Jean Henri Dunant he determined to found a volunteer organisation based on his belief in humanitarianism, neutrality and impartiality. Today, with affiliates in 171 countries, both the name and symbol call up an image of

dedicated volunteers in life-threatening conditions in international war zones.

The British Red Cross, with an annual income of more than £90 million, ranks sixth in financial terms, but with a presence in 46 countries, supplies the largest number of staff to the international movement. About 90,000 volunteers, plus 2,700 paid staff, care for people in crisis at home and abroad.

Each of the 86 UK branches has an agreed role within the statutory services' major incident plan, and deploy volunteers to provide pre-planned services such as transporting people away from a scene, as demonstrated at bomb threatened Aintree, and giving first aid and emotional support.

But despite more than a century of magnificent work, a 1991 market research study described the Red Cross as the "best known, least understood" humanitarian organisa-

tion, its public image that of a worthy, but old-fashioned movement, solid, but hardly exciting. Mr Whitlam was charged with the task of streamlining the organisation and of refocusing its role as an emergency service equipped to deal with the rapidly changing environment.

He says: "Worldwide, the Red Cross is highly respected, the emblem is still the protective emblem, more recognisable even than Coca-Cola or McDonald's, but it is vital to be relevant to what is happening now. Wars are happening differently. There are fewer wars between countries, more breakdowns within countries. So although a country may have signed the Geneva Convention, the different factions within the country don't know what you're talking about when you point out that killing women and children is against the Convention."

Work in the UK accounts for more than 50 per cent of the budget. Under Mr Whitlam, there has been a shift from offering a vast range of services to a concentration on core services targeting the most vulnerable communities.

"It's not enough for someone to simply want to be a volunteer," Mr Whitlam says. "He or she has to be prepared to train, and train hard, to deliver the highest quality service."

"While we must be prepared for any emergency, we can't have people sitting around doing nothing. The worldwide movement has taken the strategic decision to work with the most vulnerable, both at home and overseas. Here in the UK we've identified five core services: Medical Loan, Transport and Escort, First Aid Duties, Health and Social Care, and Message and Tracing Services, that will ensure that when we're called upon to respond to a major event, we'll have the skills to deliver."



Essential service: volunteers in a specially equipped caravan offer food, clothing and practical advice after a fire

Staying cool under fire

TO THE public, the Red Cross's most prominent role is in administering first aid. At a recent Tina Turner concert, for example, 135 first-aiders, who were on site from dawn until the small hours, treated 1,000 people for complaints ranging from heat exhaustion and sprained ankles to problem pregnancies.

But first aid is merely a part of the Red Cross's work. Volunteers from the organisation play a crucial role in every national emergency, be it natural disasters or the evacuation of populations in the face of terrorist threat.

Martin Anns is the assistant emergency planning officer with special responsibility for Fire Victim Support, the Red Cross's newest emergency service.

"Though the Fire Service has a statutory responsibility to rescue people and put out fires, it is not within its brief to meet the needs of the victims," he says. "As with all major incidents, there is a lot of activity that seems to fall between everyone's area of responsibility."

"Previously much cherished systems of support do not exist as strongly as they did. Families are scattered and local communities are not always as supportive as they'd like to be, so people may be left very much to their own devices, not knowing where to turn for help."

The idea of Fire Victim Support was developed in America. Launched in Berkshire in 1993, it now operates in 11 English counties and there are plans to extend it to the rest of Britain by the end of the century.

"When the Fire Service arrives at a fire, firefighters decide what resources are needed," Mr Anns says. "In the case of distressed victims with no one to turn to, they may call out Red Cross volunteers who arrive in a specially adapted motor caravan equipped with clothing, mobile telephone, kitchen and shower, everything necessary to provide practical and emotional support in those all-important first few hours."

Their job is to move the

victims from the scene of the fire and provide support in a fairly private environment where the victims' needs can be met."

Volunteers undergo 60 hours of training and are selected on the basis of both their emotional and physical strength. In Mr Anns's view, the job calls for an extraordinary degree of dedication.

"Most volunteers have ordinary day jobs — how many people would be prepared to spend all night helping fire victims and then go straight on to work in the morning?" he says.

"As the service is designed to complement existing statutory services, volunteers must also have a life that allows them to be on call from 6pm to 6am at weekends and on bank holidays."

"Nor is it restricted to fires. At the recent Aintree bomb threat, first-aiders found themselves cut off from their vehicles so two Fire Victim Support vans helped with the evacuation of 60,000 racegoers."

A measure of Fire Victim Support's success is the attitude of Fire Services. "Initially, and quite understandably,

they were not quite sure what to make of it," Mr Anns says. "But in four years we've reached the point when we find them actually pressuring Red Cross branches saying, why haven't we got it here? What fire officers have said for years is that they dread the moment when their job is done and they have to leave distressed victims."

"Apart from providing comfort, volunteers advise on how to go about an insurance claim; should the house be boarded up; can precious possessions be salvaged? Even pets are looked after."



Diana, Princess of Wales, at a minefield in Angola

Princess wages war on mines

Royal support raises concern over civilians hurt by leftover weapons

When Diana, Princess of Wales, provoked controversy during her visit to Angola in January, the Red Cross was not pleased. Pat Blair writes.

Its international campaign for the banning of anti-personnel mines was already moving into higher gear. The Princess's public support for a ban helped to raise the profile, worldwide, of an issue that has led to misery for millions.

It is not the only international campaign pushed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and supported by the British Red Cross. The use of children in war is another, as is the deliberate targeting of water-supply systems and the use of blinding weapons.

Long after conflicts cease,

men, women and children are dying or being maimed by these indiscriminate explosive devices. Egypt has the most active mines — about 20 to 30 million left over from the Second World War.

For the Red Cross, the problem is massive, and growing. About 25 per cent of all its surgical work throughout the world is related to landmines.

Seventy-one countries harbour active landmines. Civilian refugees tend to be most affected. There are an estimated nine million mines in the former Yugoslavia.

At its hospital in Quetta, Pakistan, the ICRC reports that 23.2 per cent of mine victims, mainly from Afghanistan, are children. Yet perhaps 85 per cent of child victims do not appear in the statistics. They die before they reach hospital.

Britain is among 155 countries supporting a call to outlaw these weapons. Western states have proposed that the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should negotiate a phased ban, starting with exports.

In December, more than 50 governments will meet in Ottawa, aiming to sign a treaty banning anti-personnel mines.

To help those who help.

A policy we will always renew.

We are proud to be supporters of The British Red Cross Fire Victim Support Service.

COMMERCIAL UNION

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.



Godfrey Davis Motor Group Ltd
are pleased to be supporting
THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

Godfrey Davis

THE DRIVERS CHOICE

Suppliers of Vehicles and Vehicle Support Services
Please call Paul Stratford on
01727 750980

Supporting the Red Cross



GARDNER MERCHANT
Catering and Support Services
for Business and Industry
0181 - 763 1212

Dorling Kindersley is delighted to publish the First Aid Manual authorised by the British Red Cross



£9.99 Available in all good bookshops

Sedgwick is pleased to work with the British Red Cross and support their 1997 Red Cross Week.

Sedgwick and the British Red Cross — ready for what's next.

With the current pace of change, the need to manage risk is greater than ever — but is your organisation ready to respond to these risks? Is it ready for what's next?

With a network of UK branches and 270 offices in 71 countries, Sedgwick is taking the lead in providing a comprehensive range of cost-effective and innovative risk management and insurance solutions, wherever you are.

Sedgwick

Sedgwick UK Risk Services Limited
Sedgwick House, The Sedgwick Centre, London E1 8DX
Telephone 0171-377 3456 Facsimile 0171-377 3199

That's what we do...
May 4th is Red Cross Day.
We're planning our...

Sponsored section

A helping hand for the vulnerable

Volunteers provide vital services that rarely make the headlines

THE British Red Cross has a primary role to be ready for any national emergency, be it armed conflict or natural disaster. Less well-known are the services providing short-term crisis care in ordinary communities, in particular those deemed to be specially vulnerable: inner-city and rundown areas; and isolated rural communities.

Every year, thousands of individuals in crisis benefit from services delivered by 85 branches in the UK.

The Transport and Escort Service meets the needs of those who cannot get out and about easily, or have difficulty using ordinary transport. Those with impaired mobility are collected from their homes by a volunteer. In the case of a long journey, a network system means the client can be put on a train by one branch, and met by another at the end of the journey.

Home From Hospital helps people to settle back into their own 'homes' after hospital treatment. A volunteer is assigned to prepare the client's home - help with bathing, shopping and meals, provide companionship and generally encourage confidence.

The Domiciliary Respite Care Service is designed to allow carers to take a short break from their responsibilities when they themselves fall ill, or simply need to recharge their batteries, while the Emergency Domiciliary Personal Care Service enables people to stay in their homes when the usual sources of support are unavailable.

The Therapeutic Beauty



Home help: the organisation offers support in a crisis

ment can be vital. Medical Loan has depots around the UK providing wheelchairs, bath seats, commodes, frames and walking sticks. Last December, John arrived at one such depot with a request. His wife Janet was terminally ill with ovarian cancer, the hospital had supplied a child's wheelchair that was 'totally unsuitable', could they help?

The volunteer told him the last one had gone out. Three days before Christmas, a wheelchair was returned car-

ly. Remembering John, the volunteer wheeled the chair round to his house. The delight on his face and that of his wife and children is something she will never forget.

On January 3, the chair was returned. Janet had died, aged 26. A message attached said: 'Thank you for making our Christmas so happy. For the first time in six months we were able to go out as a family.'

ROS DRINKWATER

A multimillion campaign where every penny counts

Supporters come in all sizes, writes Michael Prest

If you see a dapper figure ranting a collecting tin outside Knightsbridge tube station in London this week it may well be John Gray. As director of public affairs for the Red Cross, Mr Gray is in charge of the charity's fundraising and will be joining an army of 100,000 volunteers who hope to raise £2.5 million during the week.

Using the money efficiently is just as important as raising it. The Red Cross is in the throes of a massive reorganisation which Michael Whitham, the Director General, believes

will streamline its structure, bring it closer to supporters and enable it better to justify the claim to be the world's leading emergency service.

The change, which will convert 53 separate charities into one, is due for completion by the end of next year, with Mr Whitham empowered to manage the whole organisation.

Making the change has not been easy. Agreement was needed from the branches, the Charity Commissioners, the Privy Council (because the Red Cross is a royal charter body), and the International

Red Cross in Geneva. Despite natural trepidation among the charity's 2,700 staff, few redundancies are expected.

The reorganisation will cost £6 million and Mr Whitham is confident it will more than pay for itself by the millennium.

With luck, income could double £100 million this year. Fundraising and donations contribute about a fifth of the total. Services, such as First Aid at Work, pull in about the same proportion, as do grants and fees. The other two big areas of income are legacies and the 360 Red Cross shops.

Mr Gray has established a network of corporate sponsors, who provide expertise, materials and contacts, as well as cash. There are eight of them - the aim is to have 12 - each providing at least £50,000 a year for three years. The companies include household names such as the supermarket chain Somerfield Stores, British Airways and Commercial Union.

The chairman of the corporate sponsors' group is Sir David Barnes, chief executive of Zeneca, the pharmaceutical company spun off from ICI. Sir David says his company felt it had a responsibility to contribute to the community in other than directly commercial ways. The Red Cross fitted the bill because it was a well-established, non-political charity with a strong international and national presence.

The Red Cross is developing strategies for global fundraising activities and is the

British Red Cross selected Clark Whitehill to develop a new Financial Management Strategy to support the restructured Society.

Clark Whitehill is also advising on interim financial arrangements and is a long-standing provider of VAT, accountancy and management consultancy advice to the British Red Cross.

As a leading supplier of professional services to the charity sector, we have a dedicated multi-disciplinary charity unit providing the following services:

- VAT
- Corporation Tax
- Tax Effective Fundraising
- Employee Benefits
- Audit
- Financial Reporting (SORP)
- Strategic Planning
- Organisational Change & Business Process Redesign
- Financial Management
- Information Systems
- Operational Management
- Training & Development

For further details, please contact Michael Caudrey, Andrew Pianca or Keith Warner.



Registered to carry on audit work and authorised to carry on investment business by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

HELP

That's what we do, now it's your turn.

May 4th to 10th
is Red Cross Week.
We're pinning our hopes on you.

Please use my gift to help people in crisis at home and abroad.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'British Red Cross' for £_____ OR please debit £_____ from my Visa/MasterCard/CAF CharityCard/Switch Card No. _____

Switch Issue No. _____ Expiry Date. _____ Today's Date. _____

Signed _____

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE
0171 245 1000

British Red Cross
Caring for people in crisis
A registered charity

first charity to try to earn income from Interlotto, a lottery on the Internet run from Liechtenstein.

Another idea is HelpAd, under which a company with space on its packaging lets a company with a complementary product advertise in that space, with the profits going to the Red Cross. Thus, Anchor Butter advertises on Hovis wrappers, for example. The Red Cross has signed up 70 companies in Britain and expects to earn £1 million from HelpAd this year. Now it wants to extend the idea to other countries.

All of this depends on healthy national and local roots. During its 125th year, the Red Cross set up the 125 Society, a collection of the well-connected, chaired by Angela Rippon, the broadcaster. Each member contributes at least £1,000 a year to the cause and is expected to introduce others.

But there is no substitute for the goodwill earned from the 1,200 gardens that will open in aid of the Red Cross in Britain this summer, or the innumerable fêtes and jumble sales up and down the land. In the increasingly high-powered world of fundraising, there remains a valued place for the volunteer tin-rattler.

Pat Blair on the international role that cost nine delegates their lives last year

Danger on the front line

It was impossible to cope with fitting intravenous drips to hundreds of the hospital's 2,000 patients. A dedicated team was required for a job that takes many medical students months to master.

Help was sought from among the refugees. Next day, two sisters volunteered for training. There was a draw-back — the girls were aged only 12 and 13.

But that is how two children fleeing Cambodia's killing fields came to be going from bed to bed, inserting drips into adults and babies alike with a speed and expertise that amazed the British Red Cross doctor.

It was, says Dr Frank Ryding, an example of never underestimating local facilities, or the people. Refugees are not all peasants: many are professionally qualified. Dr Ryding says: 'The people who ran away from the Khmer Rouge did so because they were highly educated.'

Dr Ryding, 48, an anaes-



Aid in action: supplies being distributed in Armenia in 1995

thesist who has done 13 missions in 17 years — the war zones of Afghanistan, Thailand and Chechnya among them — has been astonished by the refugees with whom he has worked.

But there is also danger and depression. He has seen the surgeon operating beside him

shot dead. In Berbera, northern Somalia, rebels shot half of his patients because they were from other tribes.

Geoffrey Dennis, international director of the British Red Cross, believes the dangers for its overseas 'delegates' have grown. Last year, nine delegates died on active

duty, six of them in Chechnya in December. Now, one person in each delegation is appointed solely to review security and be the one to blow the whistle to get out.

It is not only in conflicts and relief work that the British Red Cross international division is active, working through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the federation of national Red Cross or Red Crescent societies in 171 countries.

It currently has 74 British delegates in 32 countries and spends £30-£35 million a year on activities that include coordinating with other relief agencies, teaching soldiers and civilians the humanitarian rules of conflict, helping communities to return to normal, for example by restoring water-supply systems, and checking whether prisoners are detained under humane conditions.

Uniquely, it operates a message and tracing service to reunite families torn apart by war or catastrophe.



The Savoy Group
England's most distinguished
and individual hotels

is delighted to announce our partnership with
the British Red Cross
to celebrate the approach of
the Millennium.

Watch out for details of our
exciting calendar of events.

It takes a very special brand of courage to perform in the uniform of the British Red Cross.

For more than 125 years now its unsung heroes have pulled humanity's chestnuts from endless fires, not just on the British Isles but worldwide.

It has toiled stoically from behind the front lines to treat the fallen.

Its everyday labour remains low-key. The corps retains its modesty. It stays focused, resolute, unflappable.

It has worked quietly and selflessly around the globe as a behind-the-scenes negotiator for peace and understanding.

We at Swiss Reinsurance Company — another long-time global worker from the land where the Red Cross idea first took hold — are mightily impressed.

We salute the British Red Cross on its long years of magnificent achievement — and wish it many more to come.

Swiss Re



Set a date and save a fortune

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE TRAVEL trade's gamble of putting millions of summer holidays for next year on sale before this season has begun has met with mixed success and caused confusion among potential holidaymakers.

Most of the leading tour operators brought their 1998 brochures out at least six weeks earlier than normal in the hope that the post-election euphoria would fuel a holiday-buying boom.

Customers were bewildered by finding brochures in the travel agents for three seasons — this summer, next winter and next summer — all on display at once. Some of the smaller travel agents were openly hostile to the move.

The holiday firms were convinced that the "feel-good" factor would lead to a rush of sales, and that the price cuts they have been able to offer because of the strong pound would encourage customers to book now for next year's summer holiday.

"Our research shows that the month of May will break all records for the sale of holidays," says a spokesman.

Price-war truce may hit fares

By STEVE KEENAN

THE COST of crossing the Channel is set to leap with a price-war truce and the return of duty-free shopping in 1998, ferry operators say.

The number of ships operating out of Dover — which with the Tunnel account for 70 per cent of all cross Channel passengers — has fallen in 1997. And with approval expected shortly for the merger of P&O and Stena Line operations from Kent ports, more sailings will be cut, reducing capacity and pressure on fares.

Le Shuttle has raised 1997 summer prices for a standard return from £129 to £169 and five-day tickets from £69 to £109.

Stena says the average cost of a Dover-Calais return — including £1 day-trippers — tumbled from £130 in 1994 to just £50 last year.

Bill Dix, managing director of Le Shuttle, says: "Prices are clearly not sufficient and there will be more increases in 1998. When duty-free shopping goes in 1999, there will be fewer day trips and prices may have to go up by 50 per cent to recover the duty-free income."

The ending of tax-free goods will mean a huge loss for cross-Channel operators. One-third of all Dover ferry passengers are now day-trippers, says Stena. Brittany Ferries claims the figure is as high as 54 per cent.

Dover-based ferries generate half of all income from shopping, compared to just 20 per cent on routes from the south-west. Peter Stratton, P&O marketing director, says: "All companies will suffer terribly."

One report estimates 11 ferry routes from the UK will disappear in 1999, along with 25 ships. David Burdon, general sales manager of Stena Line, predicts that in future only six ships will operate out of Dover, compared with ten now.

Dialysis on holidays

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A TRAVEL company is offering breaks for patients with kidney disease at Butlin's Holiday World. The Dialysis Travel Company (DTC) is pioneering tailor-made holidays for the 7,000 Britons who need to spend five hours on a machine, three times a week.

The company was created by David Topham, formerly chief technician at a hospital renal unit. His firm has dialysis centres at Southcoast World in Bognor Regis and Suncoast World in Skegness. Three more at Somerwest World in Minehead, Starcoast World in Pwllheli, and Wonderwest World in Ayr are awaiting registration under the Nursing Homes Act.

The holidays cost the same as for any other Butlin's customer. The bill for dialysis is sent to the patient's local health authority.

Britons travelling to the Continent can arrange to get free care in state clinics. Outside the EU, dialysis can be arranged but the cost of between £170 and £200 a session is often prohibitive.

• Dialysis Travel Company, 081-949 7500
• National Kidney Federation, 6 Stanley Street, Worksop, Nottinghamshire S8 7AFX. For list of holiday dialysis for patients in UK and main foreign resorts, send E1. For Eurodial booklet, covering Europe, send £2.

for Thomson Holidays. Up for grabs is the anticipated £2 billion which will be injected into the economy as a result of the sales of building society, free shares and other windfalls due to be received by the public within the next few months. The tour operators believe between £1 billion and £3 billion of this will be spent on holidays, both for this year and next.

Although about 50,000 holidays were sold by travel agents over the Bank Holiday weekend and during the first half of this week, most had already been earmarked by regular customers who insist on returning to the same resort year after year.

Lunn Poly, Britain's biggest travel agency chain, says that the early bookings have come in from families taking advantage of the discounts and free places for children.

Although most clients were demanding resorts across the Mediterranean, long-haul destinations such as the Dominican Republic and Cancun

in Mexico were also proving particularly popular. Couples already drawing up their wedding plans for summer next year were among those booking early for the Dominican Republic which is now established as the fastest growing destination in the Caribbean.

But despite discounts of at least 10 per cent off all overseas holidays next summer, up to 25 per cent off selected short breaks and "kids go free" offers galore, the reaction from the bulk of customers has been lukewarm.

Going Places says that it took bookings worth £1 million by lunchtime last Friday, but these were mainly from those who had already indicated they would sign on the dotted line as soon as the brochures were published.

Thomson says it sold at least 20,000 holidays on the first day they went on sale. "We have never gone on sale this early before so it will be a number of weeks before we can tell how successful it has been," says a spokesman. "But

by what we can judge so far, long-haul destinations have done quite well with holidays in the Dominican Republic, Florida and Mexico already being snapped up."

First Choice is concentrating on persuading customers to fly from regional airports and at "unsocial" hours by offering an increased discount of £25 per person if they travel at night.

But Thomas Cook says that things are still "relatively quiet" and expects the advanced bookings market for 1998 to be small.

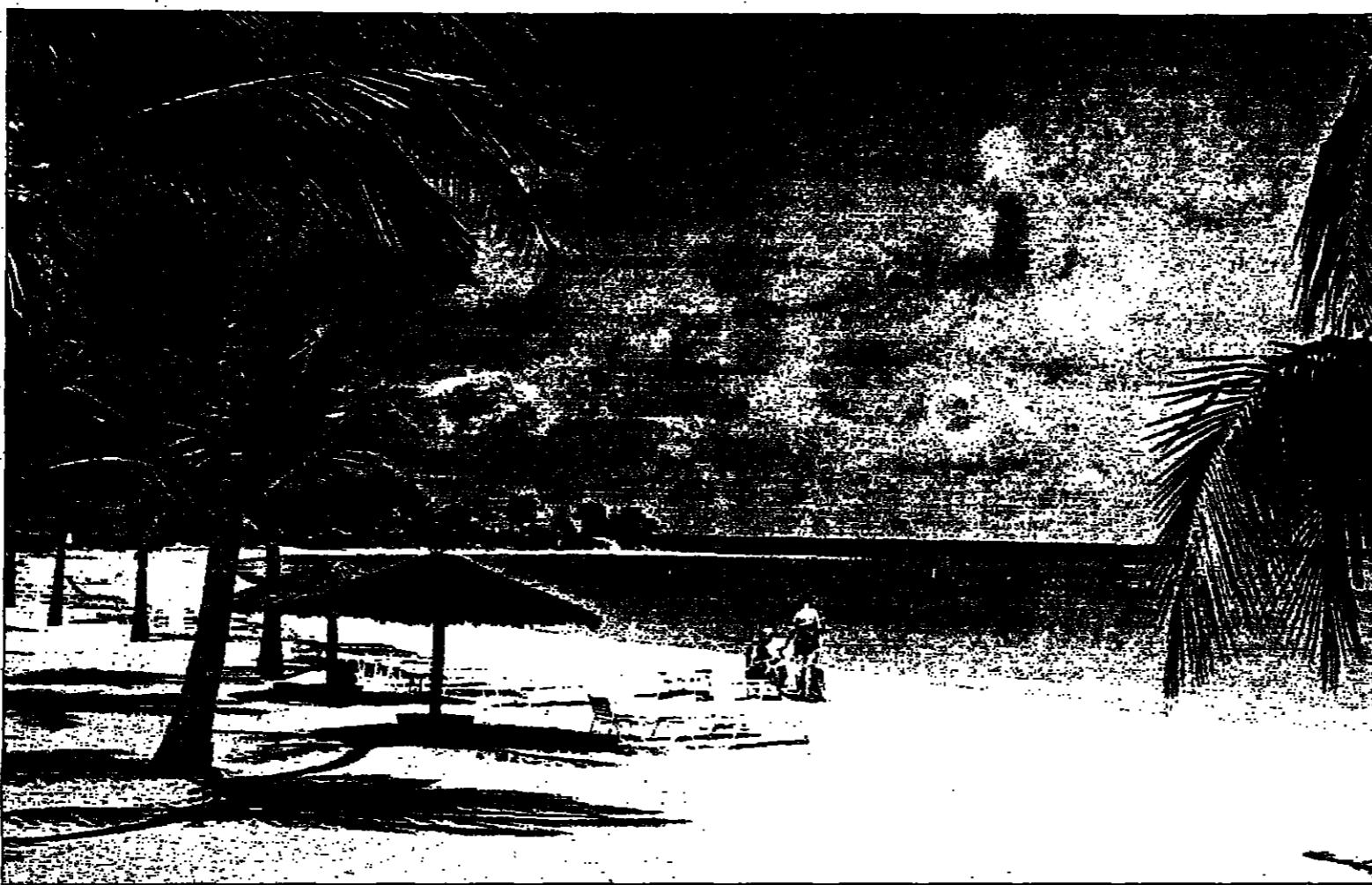
Chris Kirker, chairman of the Association of Independent Tour Operators whose 150 members supply about 20 per cent of all summer package holidays, says that his members will wait until the middle of the summer "or even later" before putting their brochures on sale.

Going Places says that it took bookings worth £1 million by lunchtime last Friday, but these were mainly from those who had already indicated they would sign on the dotted line as soon as the brochures were published.

Thomson says it sold at least 20,000 holidays on the first day they went on sale. "We have never gone on sale this early before so it will be a number of weeks before we can tell how successful it has been," says a spokesman. "But



Exotic locations: couples are booking for 1998 weddings



Jumby Bay, off Antigua, whose owners claim that losses have forced them to close. About 200 British holidaymakers visit the island each year

Judge keeps 'paradise' open

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

ONE of the Caribbean's most exclusive and expensive island resorts has been ordered to remain open for business — even though it does not have any guests.

A judge ruled this week that the privately owned Jumby Bay, off Antigua, whose owners claim that heavy losses have forced them to close, must remain open until a bitter financial dispute with multimillionaire property owners has been resolved.

Meanwhile, dozens of guests, including many from Britain, have been offered alternative holidays on other Caribbean islands.

The Jumby Bay resort consists of a hotel complex and 38 cottages and suites hidden discreetly around the 300-acre island. There are also a few villas, which are mainly owned by wealthy Americans who can become members of the Jumby Bay Club and use the main hotel facilities free.

The Antiguan owners of the island claim they are losing so much money that they have no choice but to wind up

the club and build about 60 more hotel villas to rent. However, some existing owners who rely on the hotel for their electricity claim that the closure is unnecessary. They have obtained an injunction preventing the club from being wound up.

The hotel was already shut down and guests offered alternative accommodation, but the judge ruled that no further action could be taken until the dispute was settled.

Although 11 British tour operators feature Jumby Bay in their brochures, only about 200 British holidaymakers visit the island each year.

The high cost — about £4,000 per person per week — does not stop the seriously rich. But Jumby Bay is not the only place to enjoy the ultimate in private.

Geoffrey Kent, chief executive of Abercrombie & Kent, regarded Jumby Bay as his favourite hideaway. First established as a holiday destination, it was formerly known as Long Island and was taken over by its present owners in 1987, who named it after a playful local spirit.

It takes ten minutes to reach the island by boat and, once there, visitors are surrounded with the ultimate in

luxury. Egyptian cotton sheets on the beds, thousands of imported trees to provide shade, Michelin-star chefs and hand-picked staff who outnumber guests by three to one.

Central to the transient island community is the Estate House, an English sugar plantation manor that was built in the mid-1700s. Upstairs in the tastefully restored house is a bar known as The Library, where guests can order the most exotic cocktails or rare wines, while others choose to eat on the veranda.

Water sports of all kinds are included in the price, as is the American game of six-wicket croquet.

There are rare birds, even rarer sheep, hawksbill turtles and some of the finest beaches in the world.

But although honeymooners especially love its privacy and solitude, others find "artificial" and cut off from the real world.

Now it must remain in limbo at least until next week while the financial wrangle is resolved.



Wise words find their mark

COMPARED with Virgin Airlines boss Richard Branson, Peter Legro is hardly a household name. But his airline, Transavia, is one of the most successful in Europe and he is President of the International Air Carrier Association.

In the industry he is much respected for his forthright opinions, which is why so many executives gathered to hear him speak to the Aviation Club in London last week. Some of what he said deserves a wider audience.

• **Timekeeping:** "The industry," he said, "spends vast sums of money advertising the wonders of flying in our metal tubes when we cannot even guarantee to stick to the timetables we write."

Fewer than 20 per cent of

'Airlines should not be seen as an easy tax target'

• **Air traffic control:** "The authorities will spend money on beautiful air-conditioned halls and lounges full of shops and casinos for the customers waiting for delayed aircraft."

"They want tourism, they want the investment, they want the control but they don't choose to devote the resources," he said.

The Greeks, he explained, are not ready to move into their new air traffic control centre. Italy will be short of 140 air traffic controllers and the French air traffic controllers' three-year pay deal is up for renewal this year — "Enjoy your summer."

• **Noise:** "The authorities on the one hand have given Schiphol a maximum operational capacity of some 44 million passengers a year but on the other hand it will run out of capacity at peak times next summer at only 25 million passengers."

• **State aid:** "In 1996 some \$12 billion of state aid went into five carriers that between them control 35 per cent of Europe's air transport capacity. One third of our industry cannot or will not stand up by itself."

It was all good, powerful stuff from someone who clearly knows — and cares — about both the travel business and about his customers. Let us hope governments, as well as his colleagues, were listening.

DIY tours beat the rip-off reps

ORGANISED holiday excursions can cost more than three times as much as going by yourself, according to *Holiday Which?*, the consumer magazine, Harvey Elliott writes.

Research shows that holidaymakers can be taken for an expensive ride if they book through a tour operator. An independent excursion from Paris to Versailles, for example, was £26 while an organised tour was £84.

Tour operators take a cut from the price of a trip laid on by a local agency, part of which gets passed on to the resort rep as commission. Reps maximise profits by selling excursions and warning

visitors of the dangers of independent trips. But as tourists are often hurried around sights, sometimes without a guide, they may be better off going by themselves.

"It is very easy in many places to organise your own trip," says Kim Winter, managing editor of *Holiday Which?*. "Local excursions can be good value as they may include food, drink and transport, but for longer trips the experience may well be more rewarding alone."

"Look at guide books, drop

into the local tourist office, and pick a different day to the one all the tour operator groups use to avoid the crowds."

Day trips soar in popularity

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

A NEW GUIDE to 600 French chateaux, farms and houses offering bed and breakfast accommodation is now on sale. It offers beneficial currency exchange rates making prices about 20 per cent lower than they were last year. *Le B&B* is available from bookshops at £6.95.

AIR SERVICES between Moscow and Manchester, which ended when Aeroflot withdrew earlier this year, resume on July 1 when the privatised Russian airline Transaero introduces a twice-weekly, non-stop scheduled service. Fares will range from £295 for a full economy return to £50 for a business-class return.

USE of full headlights is prohibited. It is against the law for motorcyclists to smoke while riding in the Czech Republic and in Germany motorcyclists can be fined for abusive language or derogatory signs.

GUIDE FRIDAY, the Stratford-upon-Avon-based open-top bus company, is converting its 140 old buses to the environmentally friendlier fuel LPG. The company, which operates

lion people even though it charges £3 for admission.

Westminster Abbey and York Minster, where entrance is free, attracted 2,500,000 and 2,200,000 respectively. The Tower of London, Windsor Castle and Edinburgh Castle, Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, is fourth in the table of cathedrals and churches, attracting 1.7 mil-



Small wonder: Legoland has become the eighth most popular attraction in the UK

the most popular gardens; the British Museum, the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery the favoured museums, and London, Chester and Edinburgh the most visited zoos.

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway, the Ffestiniog Railway and the Severn Valley Railway each attracted about 200,000 enthusiasts last year, while the top visitor attraction was Cadbury World at

Birmingham, followed by the Old Blacksmith's Shop at Gretna Green.

David Quaraby, the chairman of the British Tourist Authority, says: "New attractions, such as the London Aquarium and Thackray's Medical Museum in Leeds, together with increased investment in established venues, should encourage more days out in 1997."

TOP AND BOTTOM

AVIATION fanatics can fly Rome for the day on Alitalia for £99 next month. This compares with a normal economy day-return fare of £512. Those who go will have to be really keen on aircraft and airports because they will not leave Fiumicino airport.

They will be given a guided tour, including Alitalia's hangars, crew training, flight simulator and emergency procedures centre. Italiatours (0171-571 1114) is arranging the trips — on June 11 and 25, both Wednesdays.

IN AN effort to curb "obnoxious and drunken behaviour", Carnival Cruise Line has banned passengers under the age of 21 from all its ships unless on honeymoon or accompanied by someone over 25. And the 109,000-ton P&O liner, the *Grand Princess*, being built in Germany, will encourage cruisers to marry in the ship's dedicated wedding chapel.

MOTORISTS abroad can get caught out by some unusual laws, says the AA. In Ukraine and Romania, for example, it is illegal to drive a dirty car. In Gibraltar a driver

EQUESTRIANISM: BADMINTON RULE HANDS ADVANTAGE TO BRITISH RIDERS

King eyes crowning glory

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING, unbeaten in a three-day event since Burghley last year, heads the list of British riders attempting to halt the formidable overseas challenge at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials, which begin today in Gloucestershire.

The event, the only four-star competition (the highest international rating) in the world this year, has attracted most of the leading riders, including Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the winner last year, and Bruce Davidson, of the United States, the winner in 1995.

With no obvious favourite — and at least a dozen of the 80 starters well capable of winning the £25,000 first prize — the event is one of the most open for years.

The British, whose last winner was Virginia Leng in 1993, have more than a sporting chance. Because of the record entry, foreign riders have been limited to one horse, while two of the leading British riders — Ian Stark and Leslie Law — are allowed two. The controversial ruling means that some of the sport's top horses, such as Todd's Broadcast News and Blyth Tait's Aspiring, are not among the starters.

King, who since August has won the Burghley, Blenheim and Saumur three-day events in addition to

the British and Scottish Open championships, rides only one horse, Star Appeal, a 12-year-old gelding. They won at Burghley last year and Star Appeal excels in all three phases of the three-day event, but is capable of aberrations.

At Badminton last year, he fell at the first fence and at Bramham last June, he ran away when, according to King, "the brakes failed". King, who won in 1992 on King William, is likely to be among the leaders after the dressage. For the cross country on Saturday, her main concern is controlling the horse. "I need to get him settled enough to really hold him across country so I can ride him accurately," she said.

Stark, the winner in 1986 and 1988, starts as one of the British favourites with Lady Hartington's eye-catching Stanwick Ghost, an 11-year-old thoroughbred. He has had a superb spring, finishing runner-up at Brigstock and third at Belton — two of the main pre-Badminton outings — but he has not proved a lucky horse.

At his first Badminton attempt, in 1994, he fell at The Quarry. Last year, he led after the cross country but dropped to sixth after the showjumping. At the Olympic Games, he tripped coming out of the water. Stark, 43, who also rides Arakai, attributes his restored confidence in Stanwick Ghost to the

trainer, Lars Sederholm, to whom he turned for help after Atlanta.

Karen Dixon, who suffered a bitter disappointment when her veteran campaigner, Get Smart, 17, was withdrawn last night after being held over in the first horse inspection, will now rely on Too Smart, her Olympic horse.

Too Smart, an 11-year-old gelding, is bold and athletic, but has yet to fulfil his potential. He finished 29th last year after a mistake at the Beauvoir Staircase. In Atlanta, where he was the Great Britain team that finished fifth, he was clear but slow. Dixon's main concern on Saturday will be holding a straight line through the

more technical of Hugh Thomas's 31 fences.

The other leading British contenders include Law with New Flavour, a talented Irish thoroughbred; William Fox-Pitt on his Olympic horse, Cosmopolitan, who is having his first attempt at a four-star event; and Pippa Funnell, with Bits and Pieces.

Even with one horse apiece, the foreign entry is daunting. The five New Zealand riders read like a who's who of eventing. Todd, a dual Olympic champion, rides Kayent, the winner of Saumur last year. Blyth Tait, the reigning Olympic champion, is on Chesterfield; Vaughn Jefferis, the world champion, is on Bounce; Andrew Nicholson has his Burghley runner-up, Cartoon; and Sally Clark has Squirrel Hill, on which she took silver behind Tait in Atlanta.

The United States has Karen O'Connor, on her Olympic team silver medal-winner, Biko; Dorothy Crowell, on her 1994 world silver medal-winner, Molokai; and Davidson, on his 1995 winner, Eagle Lion.

Add to that an Australia squad that includes two members of their Olympic gold medal-winning team — Phillip Dutson, on True Blue Girdwood, and Andrew Hoy, on Darien Powers — and the stage is set for one of the most competitive Badmintons in its 48-year history.



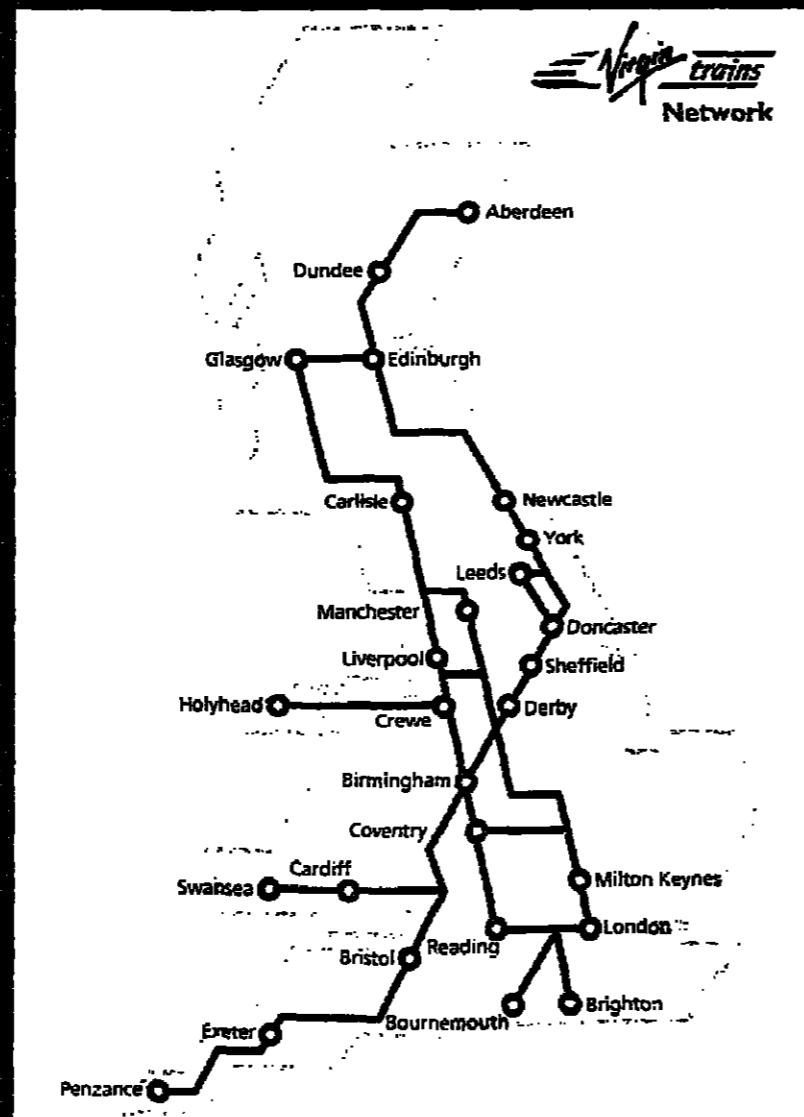
King: optimistic



In full swing: Kate Rodgers benefited from Tim Henman's expertise at Queen's Club yesterday when the Lawn Tennis Association launched a £3.5 million programme to boost the British game

THE SUNDAY TIMES

VIRGIN TRAINS OFFER ARRIVING SUNDAY.



Don't miss The Sunday Times this Sunday for details.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

BAYFIELD TO MISS ENGLAND'S TOUR

BY DAVID HANNS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN BAYFIELD'S playing career is on hold once more. A pelvic condition has recurred and Bayfield, the Northampton lock, who has made only a handful of appearances for his club this season, has been forced to withdraw from the England tour to Argentina, which begins on May 18.

Since John Fowler, the Sale lock, is also expected to withdraw, the team management must find replacements for the engine-room with some speed. They have talked to Nigel Redman, the experienced Bath lock, and considered Dan Grewcock of Coventry, and Richard West of Richmond, though the latter has been afflicted by a knee injury in recent weeks.

Richmond, the winners of the second division, have announced plans to bolster both their playing squad and expand their overall sporting interests. They have signed Jason Wright, the Otago centre, along with a crop of promising youngsters in Craig Gillies, the Bath lock, Dominic Chapman, the Harlequins wing, and Lee Best, a full back from Durham. The signing of Barry Williams, the Neath hooker, is expected to be confirmed within days.

In addition, Craig Quinnell, the Wales utility forward, has extended his contract until 2001. Quinnell, however, will be out of action for two months after an operation on a torn tendon in his left knee and will be unavailable for Wales's summer tour of the United States and Canada.

ERSKINE IGNORES INJURY TO SECURE FINAL REWARD

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SALE, already deprived of Charlie Vyvyan, will be without John Fowler, another of their injured forwards, in the Pilkington Cup final against Leicester on Saturday, despite the efforts of a faith healer to repair Fowler's injury.

Fowler is still hoping to make the England tour of Argentina later this month, but damaged knee ligaments, which he sustained two weeks ago, had not recovered sufficiently for him to be considered yesterday for the XV for Twickenham.

Vyvyan broke an ankle in the 20-20 draw with Leicester in the Courage Clubs Championship last Saturday, which gave Leicester the last Heineken Cup place for next season at the expense of Sale.

In Vyvyan's absence, John Mitchell, the club's New Zealand director of rugby, switches to No 8. Neil Ashurst moves to blind-side flanker, Mitchell's normal theatre of operation. Despite a broken nose in the game against Leicester, Dave Erskine, Fowler's replacement, has put off an operation and will partner Dave Baldwin in the middle of the lineout.

Compared with Leicester, Sale's strength in depth is limited, but Mitchell last night dismissed suggestions that the draw against Leicester would affect his side on Saturday.

Mitchell said: "Saturday is a totally different game, a one-off situation. I believe that there will be much more emotion shed on this occasion. We were disappointed after last weekend, but this side has got a lot of spirit and intends to do very well."

"I just hope that the referee on Saturday will allow us to deliver quick ruck ball, which was not the case last Saturday. At the end of the day, the game is about scoring tries. It's my philosophy and the southern hemisphere philosophy, and for the game to improve in this part of the world, a ball from the ruck has to become quicker."

"One of Leicester's key attributes for a long time has been slowing it down, and I hope that is not allowed to occur this time."

The European Conference will comprise 32 teams next season, 16 from France, eight from England, four from Wales and one each from Ireland, Italy, Romania and Scotland. Romania will be represented by a Regional XV. The Heineken Cup will comprise four teams from England, France and Wales, three each from Ireland and Scotland and two from Italy.

SALE: J. McAllister (captain); D. Ross, J. Bewick, A. Hadley, T. Both, S. Morris, D. Morris, A. Agius, C. Evans, D. Baldwin, D. O'Grady, J. Mitchell, R. Williams, J. O'Reilly, C. Yates, A. Morris, S. Fletcher, L. Howson, M. Diver.

CRICKET: WESTMINSTER ABBEY WILL BE SETTING FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DENIS COMPTON

Sussex bowlers bow to Ramprakash

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

LORD'S (first day of four; Sussex won toss); Middlesex have made 37 for five wickets against Sussex

THE opening day of the championship season at Lord's should have been a time for looking forward. Instead, there was an opportunity to reflect on a life lived fully as Middlesex announced there would be a memorial service for Denis Compton, their greatest player, in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday, July 1.

Compton becomes only the third sportsman to be honoured in this way, after Sir Frank Worrell, the former captain of West Indies and Bob Moore, captain of the England football team that won the World Cup in 1966.

Coming a week after the second Test against Australia at Lord's, the service will enable Compton's admirers from all over the world the chance to celebrate his coming hence and going further.

It would be stretching things a bit to say that Compton's spirit was much in evidence yesterday, though Mark Ramprakash adorned an afternoon of pale sunlight by making 145, his second hundred of the season, and the 35th of his career.

Sussex, who chose to bowl on a retread pitch towards the Grandstand, were made to pay for their folly as Middlesex batted with notable comfort through a day that lost only six overs to the rain.

It was a mystery why Peter Moores decided to give his bowlers a go. He may have thought there was some moisture in the pitch, but first-hand evidence suggested that there was not much, and at no time was the bat subservient to the ball.

Middlesex needed to bat watchfully in the first session.



Ramprakash sweeps for four against the leg spin of Amer Khan, a former colleague, while scoring 145 against Sussex at Lord's yesterday

when they lost three wickets, but that is usually the case on the first morning of any match. A captain should always back his batsmen, fielding as substitute for Drakes, took an easy catch.

All eyes were on Jacques Kallis, Middlesex's recent recruit from South Africa. When he first played for Western Province, there was excited talk of an exceptional teenager, who could nominate a stroke for any ball bowled to him and then play it. He looks a handsome player in an

upright way, but he did not make the score that he should have done. Having got a start, he drove Newell's second ball to point, where Phillips, fielding as substitute for Drakes, took an easy catch.

Weekes had gone by then, leg-before to Jarvis, and Gatting was to go before lunch, chopping the ball into his stumps to give Amer Khan, the leg spinner, a wicket against the club that released him.

Like others in this Sussex team, Khan is relaunching his career, and he can expect plenty of bowling this summer, if he retains his place.

By the end of the day, Moores had used nine bowlers, although, by the time that he had finished his one and only over, Greenfield had shown that he is not really a bowler at all.

It went for 15, including a six that Ramprakash pulled long and deep into the new Grandstand. Well as he played until he tickled Rao for a rather

tame leg-side dismissal, it should be emphasised that Ramprakash will often play better for fewer runs.

He made 92 of his runs between lunch and tea, assisted by the doughty Brown, whose contribution to the Middlesex cause is frequently underplayed. The pair added 136 for the fourth wicket and, when Brown resumes this morning, he will be sniffing a hundred of his own.

He is the best sort of team man, and he made sure that

the day did not belong exclusively to his stylish partner.

As for "Ramps", there is nothing to say that is not already known. He has always looked easy on the eye, and he drove and flicked off his legs with confidence.

In each of the two first-class innings that he has played this season, he has made hundreds, which means he is in good form, but he has long since passed the point when form will speak winningly on his behalf.

Curran's boldness pays off

By PAT GIBSON

NORTHAMPTON: (first day of four; Northamptonshire won toss); Northamptonshire have scored 129 for four wickets against Somerset

SNOW covered the County Ground just as play was about to resume after lunch, but it could not hide the dilemma facing Northamptonshire, a club with so many talented young batsmen that Alec Swann, the England Under-19 opener, cannot even get a game for the second team.

They know that they must find room in their championship side for such promising players as David Sales, Tim Walton, David Roberts and Swann, but that is going to be very difficult while someone like Kevin Curran keeps clumping the hill around.

Curran will be 38 by the end of the summer, but he was the Northamptonshire player of the year last season, with more than 1,000 runs at an average approaching 60, and he showed that he has no intention of stepping aside by hitting an undefeated 65 that contrasted sharply with everything going on around him.

Rob Bailey, the Northamptonshire captain, was in two minds when he won the toss. He had three seamers, includ-

ing Mohammad Akram, the new signing from Pakistan, yet he chose to bat, probably because it was preferable to fielding on such a wintry day.

Somerset were not complaining. There was some grass on the pitch, and a degree of bounce from the pavilion end which Shine exploited to have Montague caught at second slip and Bailey caught behind in his first five overs.

Curran's answer to the crisis was characteristic. He is a nervous starter and, apparently, thinks that No 4 is too high in the order for him. So he threw the bat from the start, dispatching Shine to the square-leg boundary, lifting

Pemberton helped Curran to resume after lunch, but he was doubtless relieved to spend the opening day of his championship debut for Glamorgan in the dressing-room while the batsmen made telling use of the 66 overs possible. Steve James, who waited until late June for the first of his six centuries last season, made an earlier start this time with a chanceless 101 not out.

Despite the evidence of the scoreboard, the pitch is inclined to uneven bounce and permitted early grip for the spinners. Given improved



Curran: undefeated 65

James warms to his work

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (first day of four; Glamorgan won toss); Glamorgan have scored 213 for one wicket against Yorkshire

THIS was not a day to be judging championship aspirants. Headingley was dank, deserted and so cold that Darren Gough wore a ski hat under his cap and the morning drinks, served by a twelfth man in gloves, came out of a teapot.

Only 28 intrepid souls paid to watch and the most animated debate of the day concerned a luncheon storm that left the ground momentarily white and the notion that they might now win the title is rather more than Welsh romanticism.

Confidence generated in these early weeks counts for much in the championship marathon, as Leicestershire demonstrated last year. Glamorgan exude optimism. They expect to make big scores and Hugh Morris, season after season, is one of the quickest batsmen out of the traps. A

Raymond Illingworth had just arrived in the press box, reminiscing perkily about his winter in Spain. Twelve months ago, he might have been taking mental notes.

Realistically, Morris has played his last Test cricket, but there are still few better openers at this level and it was a surprising misjudgment when he drove at Silverwood and was caught behind.

His half-century had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire were struggling, as much to keep warm as to take wickets. Morris, with his pragmatic method, cashed in. His second fifty came in an hour, from only 55 balls, and, when play ended in gloom, he had added 127 with Adrian Dale.

Hilary Wilson had come from only 82 balls; the more prosaic James needed 151 for his, but its tenacity was significant. Gough was bowling at prudently reduced speed and Yorkshire

CRICKET

Walker on his Sunday best for Durham

By IVO TENNANT

HARTLEPOOL first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss; Durham, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 55 runs behind Nottinghamshire.

WHEN, two years ago, Durham last won a championship match, Nottinghamshire were their opponents. If these two counties did possess any ambition last season, it was simply to avoid finishing bottom of the table. The most prominent performance yesterday, seven for 50, came from Alan Walker, a medium-paced bowler who expected to play only on Sundays this season, and that was indicative of how lacking they are in top-class bowling.

When David Boon came to peruse the Durham players that he was inheriting, he must have wondered what

legs straight to the fielder at square leg. From then on, it was a succession of departing batsmen. Archer was caught at the wicket, pushing forward. Pollard, leg-before, Johnson bowled chipping on to his leg stump. Walker was gaining a little movement off the seam.

When Dowman was caught at the wicket off a skier, Collingwood running back from first slip and holding a decent catch, Nottinghamshire were 99 for five. Foster, another of medium pace, was the bowler. Two of the next three wickets were taken by Walker, which meant that career-best figures were within his compass. His collection of wickets in the past three years looks even more skewed when considering that 14 came in one match against Essex in 1995, including eight for 18 and Mark Waugh's wicket in both innings.

Brown, though, removed two tailenders and there were runs for Tolley, of whom it could also be said that he is fortunate still to be in the game. Like Walker, he is with a second county and, even taking into account that cricketers in his age in England are often reaching their peak at a time when those abroad are contemplating retirement, is unlikely to improve further.

He will be 30 this year. Walker, whose figures were best by a Durham bowler in Durham, is soon to be 35. Still, without Tolley's contribution yesterday, Nottinghamshire's innings would have been a sorry picture. His half-century came off 66 balls and included 11 fours. He was finally drawn into a drive by Walker and was caught.

This was not Tolley's final contribution. With his first ball, he took the wicket of Morris. By then, Collingwood had been bowled shouldering arms and Lewis had gone leg-before to Bowen.

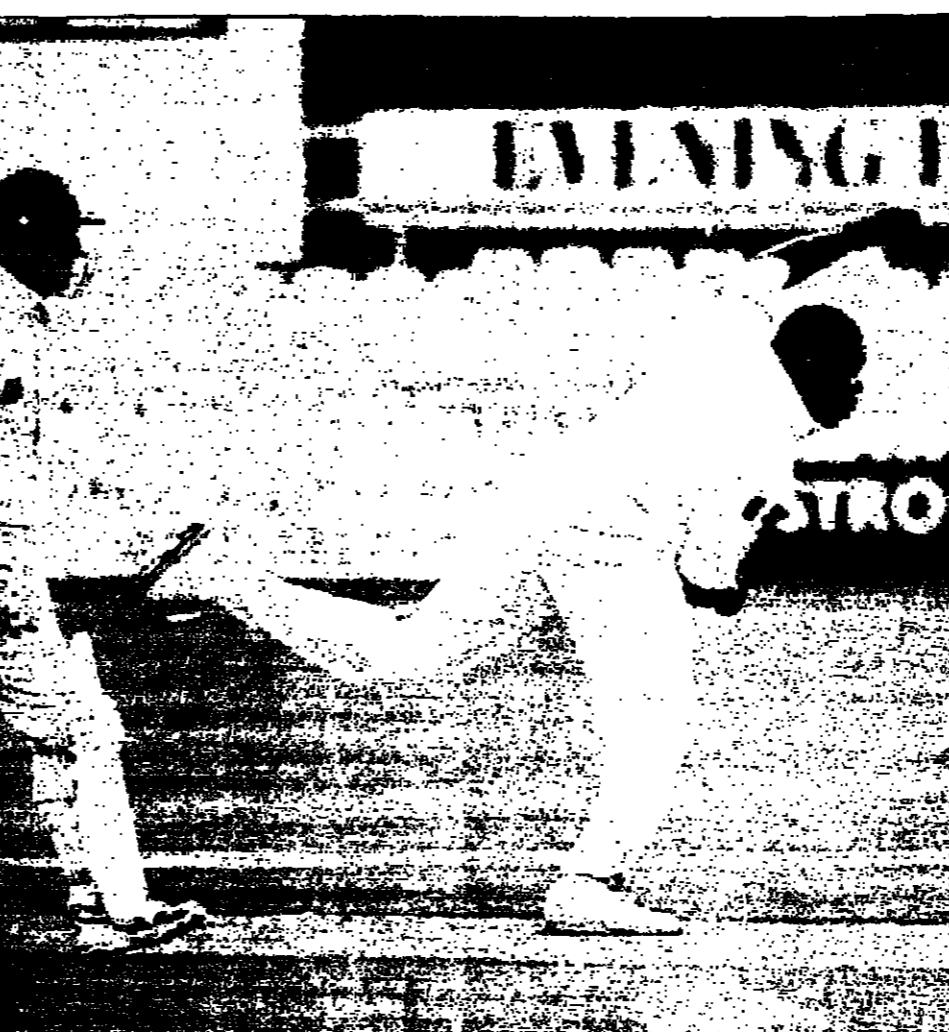
It is strange to think that this is a batsman whom Essex considered to have a better future in first-class cricket than Nick Knight. Even the best-run counties can baffle their thinking.

Walker was doing well on the staff. After all, this is a bowler who last season, when he was fully fit, took two champion-wickets at a cost of 277 runs and who has a mere 41 wickets from his three years with the county. Where Boon comes from, they do not think much of such figures.

Walker played yesterday, not on account of injuries to others, but on merit. If that says something about the paucity of talent in Durham, it also tells of his resolve—and of some third-rate batting.

In years gone by, Robinson would have stayed in all day on this kind of slow pitch against a medium-paced attack that obtained little movement. It would not have been pretty, but it would have been effective. Now, Robinson loathed that familiar chip off his

Rain, followed by hail,



Lawrence shows no signs of fatigue as he leads the Gloucestershire attack on his return to first-class cricket at Bristol

Hampshire take lead from Smith

By JAMES ALLEN

BRISTOL (first day of four; Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 221 for six wickets against Gloucestershire

AMID the fanfares for David Lawrence, Hampshire were made to graft for their runs by his fellow seam bowlers yesterday. They showed a willingness to do so that was all the more commendable for a team which has started the summer as if it might be another season of undiluted struggle.

What moments of aggression there were came principally from Matthew Keech and Robin Smith, whose stand of 83 for the fourth wicket was the only alliance of real substance. Keech showed

signs of coming to terms with the sluggish pitch before becoming a victim of Russell's agility, while Smith possessed a welcome desire to make haste whenever he could, clouting Hancock unceremoniously over mid-wicket for six with the one memorable stroke of the day.

His half-century was an untroubled affair and came close to giving Hampshire the initiative. Otherwise, it was the bowlers who chiefly held sway.

Smith was one of three players to be adjudged leg-before. The first, to his evident displeasure, was Hayden, who had been the epitome of vigilance for an hour and a half. The Australian badly needs to find his free-scoring stride if Hampshire are to start giving themselves totals to bowl at.

In the field, Alleyne shuffled his pack with dexterity, giving Lawrence four short spells and letting the rest work around him in a pattern that Gloucestershire hope will become familiar over the coming months. Lawrence, as well he might, looked tired as the evening closed in—he finished with figures of one for 70 from 15 wholehearted overs—but no one else strayed much from an accurate line.

Mike Smith found a consistently full length and profited accordingly. Lawrence, of course, provided the abiding memory in accounting for Laney, and a hailstorm offered a spectacular sideshow, but the quiet efficiency with which Robin Smith went about his business was impressive nonetheless.

Hail halts reign of Warwickshire

By JOHN THICKNESSE

THE PARKS (first day of three; Oxford University have won toss): Oxford University have scored 129 against Warwickshire

AN INEXPERIENCED Oxford University team, containing six freshmen and only one Blue in Mark Wagh, was the only last-wicket stand of 37 to pass their previous lowest score of the season on a bleak day in the Parks.

Rain, followed by hail,

meant that there was no play after tea. Batting by choice against a Warwickshire team missing Allan Donald and two other Test team bowlers in Tim Munton, their injured captain, and Gladstone Small, the University batsmen never came to terms with the pace of Graeme Welch and Dougie Brown.

Bowling from the Norham Gardens end, the two searmen exploited the ball's tendency to keep low to share six wickets before lunch. Welch emerging with four for 39.

The unluckiest batsman was Byron Byrne, 25, an Australian, who was rapped on the pads ankle-high after clipping the previous ball from Brown to the mid-wicket boundary with one of the best strokes of the day.

Janes Averis, a rugby Blue, batting at No 10, was the top scorer. On his way to 36 not out, he stroked Ashley Giles, the England A slow left-arm, for three fours in an over. His contribution was instrumental in Oxford passing the 114 that they

scored against Yorkshire last month.

Phil Neale, the Warwickshire director of coaching, refuses to be pessimistic about the likely absence of Munton until the middle of the season, after his back operation on Tuesday.

"It's very frustrating for Tim is his first year as captain in his own right, but teams have to reconcile themselves to injuries in sport," Neale said. "We're sure to miss his experience and steadiness, but his absence creates competition."

MOTOR RALLYING: FORMER CHAMPION TURNS 22-SECOND DEFICIT INTO VICTORY

McRae's final flourish secures win in Corsica

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLIN McRAE produced what he described as "the drive of my life", to win the Tour de Corse yesterday. McRae, a Scot, made a dramatic final charge after he had started the last day in fourth place, 22sec behind Carlos Sainz, of Spain, the leader. McRae clocked the fastest time in three of the final six timed stages.

Even going into the final section — more than 34 kilometres through the mountains, from Stilicciene to Marai —

McRae, the 1995 world champion, was still 7sec behind Sainz, but made the correct choice of tyres for the conditions and produced some aggressive driving in his Subaru on the wet roads to gain 1sec on his rival's Ford Escort. McRae won by eight seconds, with Sainz second and Gilles Panizzi, of France, in a Peugeot 306, a further 30sec behind in third place.

"That was the drive of my life," McRae said. "There is no way the Subaru would have gone any faster. We didn't do much testing with the rain tyres, but my only

option was to attack. We were pretty confident, but it was never going to be easy, especially as it started to rain before the start of the final stage, but I gave it everything. It was a fantastic victory."

McRae, who won the Safari Rally, in Kenya, in March, is now only two points behind Tommi Makinen, the world champion, from Finland, at the top of the world drivers' championship and can take over the lead in Argentina in two weeks' time.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Nick of 7.30 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Blackburn v Middlesbrough (7.45)

Manchester Utd v Newcastle (8.0)

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v West Ham

WATFORD v Middlesbrough (7.45)

WORCESTER CITY v Luton (7.45)

WOR

Bean there, done that: it's time to move on

Sean Bean's wiry physique is now so famous in its own right that in the first scene of last night's *Sharpe's Revenge* (ITV) he was initially shown from behind, just to prove "he's not him!" we swooned. That's him! Cannon to the right of him, cannot Seated at a desk in a big white blouse, he could have been anybody. But the particular angle of his bony shoulder, the slight length of his head, his feathery hair—well, it wasn't anybody else. People sometimes suppose that the attraction of *Sharpe* is its rippling yarns, or possibly the excellent opportunity it provides to revisit forgotten campaign details of the Napoleonic Wars. But it's not Old Boney that fascinates; it's Young Janksy that packs them in. Single-handedly, this paragon of strapping British manhood has taken military frogging and restored it to its rightful place in the romantic wardrobe of women's hearts.

Tosh with a phenomenal build, get that's *Sharpe*. If there is a better hillside in all Europe he has not spectacularly stormed in the cause of this series, it's been behind, just to prove "he's not him!" we swooned. That's him!

Cannon to the right of him, cannot stand still, clanking bodies succumbing to fits, skin to the blast. What *Sharpe* predominantly achieves is toy-soldier battles under foreign skies, splendidly enthusiastic, and not the slightest bit real.

Although the catering truck is never actually glimpsed, the waft of tea-smell and bacon butter forever mixes with the cordite. At any moment in *Sharpe*, it's all too easy to imagine the battle-stained Bean, sandy of eyebrow and bloody of thigh, pouring H.P. Sauce on a plate of hot dinner and casually tapping ash on his cigarette-lag.

Last night's story entailed a trumped-up charge against Sharpe which detained him in

France. His beloved wife Jane (Abigail Cruttenden) dithered momentarily, then journeyed to London, withdrew Sharpe's fortune, spent it stupidly, and took a lover.

Jane's flimsiness of character, it may be noted, sets back the cause of women by 200 years. When Sharpe heard of Jane's perfidy, he took immediate action — breaking the bedroom door of a French woman who'd already had the extraordinary good fortune to nurse his man's thigh. "Beggin' your pardon ma'am," he growled. "But yer door was locked." All over Britain, women exhaled audibly, and raced to open windows and adjust the thermostat.

When, six years ago, I first started this telly-watching job, I reviewed a mild little BBC play called *My Kingdom for a Horse* by John Godber. The then unknown Sean Bean, in drab

REVIEW

Lynne
Truss



clothes and horrendous specs, played an emotionally inert 11-year-old Yorkshire history teacher called Steve, who at weekends enacted Sealed Knot battles in the role of lowly pikeman. The BBC should repeat *My Kingdom for a Horse*; it was a light and lovely film and, as a man of supreme inaction, Bean was great. On the field of battle, Steve's greatest talent was for playing dead — a

metaphor for his life in general. If you'd told him he would ever bust down a door (as above) as a matter of thrusting romantic urgency, he would probably have fainted.

Since this is my last telly column (I am moving to Sport), I could take a grand overview of telly-I have-known, but actually, the contrast between *Sharpe's Revenge* and *My Kingdom for a Horse* is enough. I had kept the tape, so I watched it again. And though it was made only seven years ago, in terms of production values it was *ancient history*: grainy, flat, slow, and eerily quiet.

On the other hand, in terms of subtlety of plot, characterisation and dialogue, it was vastly superior to *Sharpe's Revenge*, which operates (like much popular drama) mainly on the level of dumb show. "You're a damn poor liar, but you're a damn good friend," Patrick Harper, "declared Sharpe last night, flashing his teeth in the

twilight, and it was by far the most complex sentiment to be expressed over the whole two hours.

No,

in

Sharpe,

when they talk

about

raising

standards,

they

mainly mean hoisting the flag.

Otherwise, it's "Mon dieu! C'est

Sharpe!" or "To Naples!" and lots of charging uphill. ("Aaaaaah!") in attractive frogging. *Sharpe* is serious only in so far as it's not funny. The only thing they treat with total reverence is Sean Bean's tau masculinity, a subject to which (oddly) I just keep on returning.

Next week, we get *Sharpe's Justice*, and the week after, *Sharpe's Waterloo* — in which (who knows?) perhaps Sharpe will wait confused at the bottom of the Eurostar escalator, and miss his new French girlfriend standing at the top. Anyway, your new telly critic Joe Joseph will report from the sofa in my place, and I can picture him already surrounded by a mounting stack of videotapes, steadily losing all body functions save right-thumb mobility (for working the remote).

It's been a privilege to write

about television for so long. Thank you for all the letters. Happy viewing.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (48953)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (43311)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (232508)
- 9.20 Style Challenge (5779205)
- 9.45 Kilroy (702465)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (68311)
- 11.00 News (T) (875798)
- 11.05 The Great Escape (7232798)
- 11.35 Change That (162412)
- 12.00 News (T) (8402069)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (8140175)
- 12.35 Good Living (595175)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (53798)
- 1.30 Regional News (8825088)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (9094175)
- 1.45 Neighbours (T) (40914717)
- 2.10 Guiney (7537779)
- 2.55 Through the Keyhole (8142972)
- 3.20 A Perfect Arrangement (655243)
- 3.30 Playdays (8757243) 2.50 Postman Pat (6856157) 4.05 Postman Pat (7722069) 4.20 Julia, Jekyll and Hyatt Hyde (7713034) 4.35 Return to Jupiter (1487243)
- 5.00 Newsround (T) (4645175)
- 5.10 No Sweat (614601)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (181175)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (539)
- 6.30 Regional News (S1)
- 7.00 Watchdog: Healthcheck: Toyah Willcox explores the benefits of message for colic or premature babies (T) (6972)
- 7.30 EastEnders: Sonia meets the boy of her dreams, but let's hope she won't try to seduce him with her trumpet. Clark, too, is smitten with her date (T) (695)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital: Live. Rob Harris presents a special programme to celebrate National Pet Week, taking a behind-the-scenes peak at day-to-day life at Hampden Veterinary Hospital. Plus, a report on how animals deal with stress (T) (2322)
- 8.30 Keeping Mum: The Accident Peggy is in her element playing nursemaid to Andrew after he injures his foot in a nasty accident. With Stephanie Cole, Martin Bell and Meena Syal (T) (4247)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (1309)
- 9.30 see Michael Buerk and Juliette Morris introduce dramatic reconstructions (T) (539617)
- 10.20 Match of the Day (D) Michael Lynagh introduces highlights of the top-of-the-table clash between Manchester United and Newcastle United, and the rescheduled match between Blackburn and Middlesbrough (27158)
- 11.10 Question Time David Dimbleby's guests are Andrew Neil and MP Ann Taylor, Peter Lilley and Dr Jenny Tonge (T) (139137)
- 12.25am The Odd Couple (1968) Feudious divorcees Jack Lemmon and, with skivvies sports white Walter Matthau, proceed to clear up his squidgily apartment — leading to all manner of domestic discord. Neil Simon's adaptation of his own comedy stage play, directed by Gene Saks (601118)
- 1.55 Weather (3364977)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are the Video PlusCodes, which allow you to record your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (""), PlusCode ("") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday.

KY 1

7.00am Morning Glory (25759) 9.00 Soap

7.10 Kath & Kim (82824) 10.00 Another

8.00 This Is Us (82824) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (82824) 12.00 Home and Away (82824)

12.30pm Open Writing (82824)

1.00 The Weather Show (82824)

1.30 The Weather Show (82824)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (82824)

2.00 Weather (82824) 2.30 The Weather

2.45 Weather (T) (82824)

3.00 Weather (82824)

3.30 Weather (82824)

4.00 Weather (82824)

4.30 Weather (82824)

5.00 Weather (82824)

5.30 Weather (82824)

5.45 Weather (82824)

6.00 Weather (82824)

6.30 Weather (82824)

7.00 Weather (82824)

7.30 Weather (82824)

8.00 Weather (82824)

8.30 Weather (82824)

9.00 Weather (82824)

9.30 Weather (82824)

10.00 Weather (82824)

10.30 Weather (82824)

11.00 Weather (82824)

11.30 Weather (82824)

12.00 Weather (82824)

12.30 Weather (82824)

1.00 Weather (82824)

1.30 Weather (82824)

2.00 Weather (82824)

2.30 Weather (82824)

3.00 Weather (82824)

3.30 Weather (82824)

4.00 Weather (82824)

4.30 Weather (82824)

5.00 Weather (82824)

5.30 Weather (82824)

6.00 Weather (82824)

6.30 Weather (82824)

7.00 Weather (82824)

7.30 Weather (82824)

8.00 Weather (82824)

8.30 Weather (82824)

9.00 Weather (82824)

9.30 Weather (82824)

10.00 Weather (82824)

10.30 Weather (82824)

11.00 Weather (82824)

11.30 Weather (82824)

12.00 Weather (82824)

12.30 Weather (82824)

1.00 Weather (82824)

1.30 Weather (82824)

2.00 Weather (82824)

2.30 Weather (82824)

3.00 Weather (82824)

3.30 Weather (82824)

4.00 Weather (82824)

4.30 Weather (82824)

5.00 Weather (82824)

5.30 Weather (82824)

6.00 Weather (82824)

6.30 Weather (82824)

7.00 Weather (82824)

7.30 Weather (82824)

8.00 Weather (82824)

8.30 Weather (82824)

9.00 Weather (82824)

9.30 Weather (82824)

10.00 Weather (82824)

10.30 Weather (82824)

11.00 Weather (82824)

11.30 Weather (82824)

12.00 Weather (82824)

12.30 Weather (82824)

1.00 Weather (82824)

1.30 Weather (82824)

2.00 Weather (82824)

2.30 Weather (82824)

3.00 Weather (82824)

3.30 Weather (82824)

4.00 Weather (82824)

4.30 Weather (82824)

5.00 Weather (82824)

5.30 Weather (82824)

6



MOTOR RALLYING 45

Late charge helps
McRae close gap
on world champion

LO
Sus
have
age
th
bi
M
de
Lor
tim
sites
as?
wo
for
gre
ster
C
thir
hon
Fra
car
Bo
Eng
wor
C
sec
at
ena
for
cha
hen
It
thin
Cor
eve
Ma
by
hun
35th
S
on
Gra
pay
sex
fort
only
It
Mu
how
ture
evid
was
ball
A
Wan
de
Lo
Bu
mc
tag
ma
I
hir
rai
pol
risi
ha
air
sch
ton
sp
T
tha
ical
a w
hor
pol
her
I
NO.
of
won
hav
ers
SNT
Gro
to r
cou
faci
elut
you
Swa
oper
gan
find
ship
play
Wal
Swa
ver
like
clun
G
of
Nor
the
that
app
shot
hiri
cont
thin
R
tore
min
He

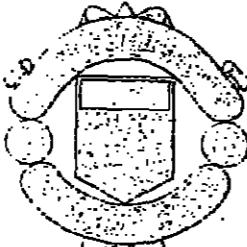
SPORT

THURSDAY MAY 8 1997

Ferguson believes that his Premiership champions can only get better

United to keep red flag flying

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT



IT WAS quiet at Old Trafford yesterday. The forecourt was full of cars as usual, but there were no party balloons up. The Megastore was almost empty; the Superstore was deserted, too. Only in the gloom of the tunnel that runs beneath the main stand was there any outward sign that Manchester United had just won their fourth championship title in five years.

A small group had gathered there, initially to shelter from the rain that came and went in squalls and then to ask officials whether there was any chance of players appearing to sign autographs. A middle-aged couple from Glasgow said the Rangers and Celtic players always showed up at Ibrox and Parkhead respectively after training.

As the rain persisted, however, the knots of supporters turned their attention to a line of posters on the wall, a series of large faces staring out from a black background, each inscribed with one word to encapsulate the seven virtues of Manchester United - and as they stared at them, more people came, as if to form a vigil.

The first in the line, of course, was Eric Cantona. Imagination was his quality. David May was next with Drive, Andy Cole after him with Determination and then Gary Neville with Dedication. Ryan Giggs was the Inspiration. David Beckham had Cheek and Roy Keane, hirsute and moody, was blessed with Power.

When the rain ceased, the crowd dispersed to embark on the last throes of their fruitless search for autographs. By then, the streetwise fans had

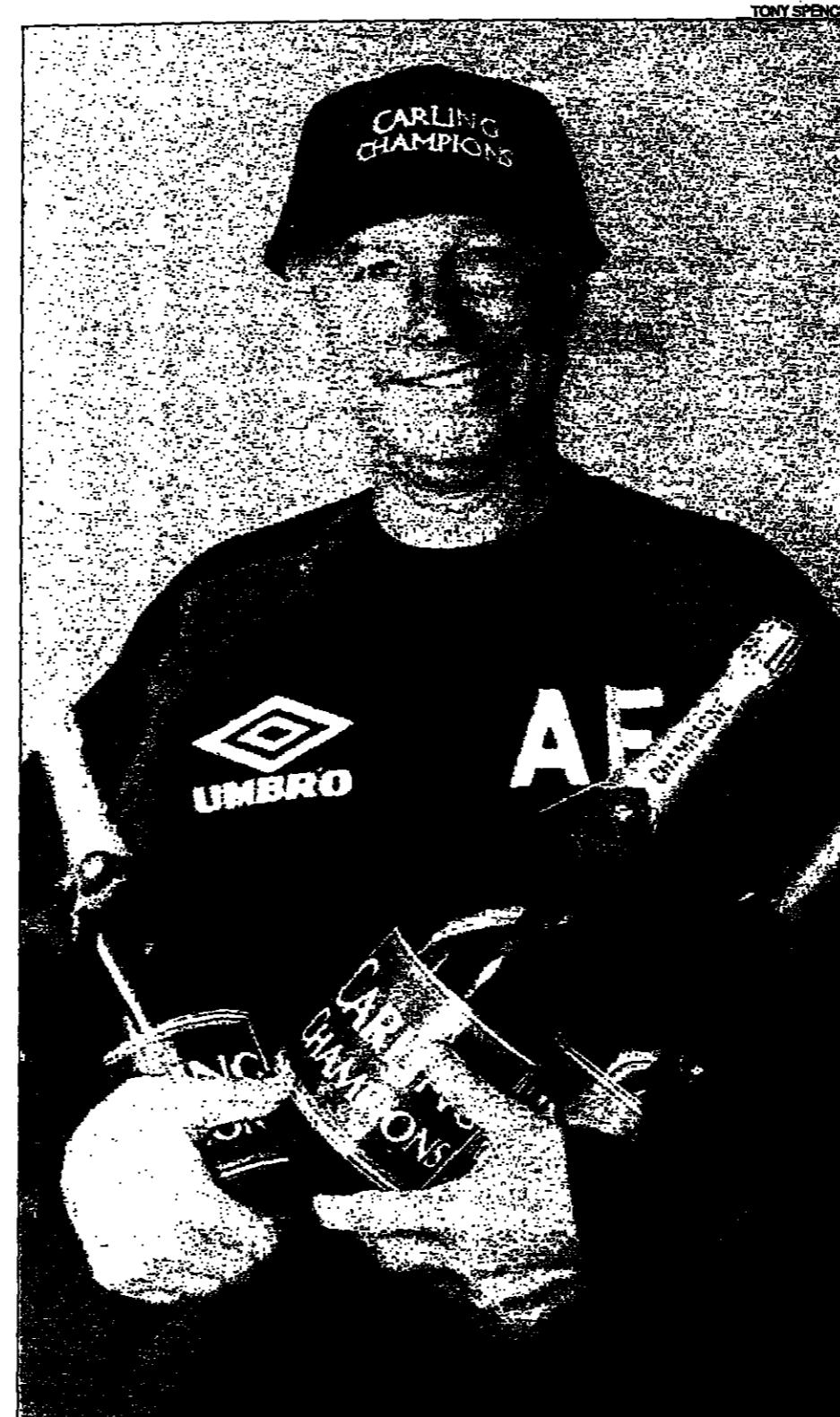
been allowed into The Cliff, United's training ground, a few miles away, to laud their heroes.

Cole was the last to leave, pausing to talk to journalists about the new sense of fulfilment he is gaining from his play, before signing the pieces of paper and the pictures thrust in front of him and climbing into his car.

Upstairs in a modest conference room, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, who had arrived at The Cliff early to congratulate his staff, was talking about the potential of the team that was handed the FA Carling Premiership by the failure of Newcastle United - and

PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Man Utd	36	25	5	7	74	54	71
Liverpool	36	24	10	2	73	55	71
Arsenal	37	18	11	8	59	31	65
Newcastle	36	18	10	8	59	40	64
A Villa	37	16	10	11	46	34	58
Spurs	36	14	14	8	49	35	56
Sheff Wed	36	14	14	8	49	46	53
Wimbledon	37	14	11	12	48	46	53
Tottenham	37	13	7	17	43	49	46
Derby	37	11	13	13	42	35	46
Leeds	37	10	12	15	42	35	43
West Ham	37	10	12	15	43	56	42
Everton	37	10	12	15	43	56	41
Blackburn	36	9	14	13	40	39	41
Sunderland	36	10	11	18	31	52	41
Coventry	37	8	14	15	36	53	39
Middlesbrough	36	10	10	16	30	59	37
Notts F	37	6	16	15	31	54	34
(Middlebrough deducted three points)							



Champagne moment: Ferguson prepares to celebrate United's title triumph yesterday

season to ease United's fixture congestion.

When he spoke, it was as if he had seen the T-shirts draped over a wall outside Upton Park on Tuesday night that proclaimed, "I'd rather be dead than red", or heard the singing of the Newcastle and

West Ham United fans on the tube train on the way back into London, united in their hatred of Old Trafford.

"We stand on our own," Ferguson said. "We have won this without the help of the Premiership because we do not get any support on major

issues. It is not a chip on my shoulder, just recognition that we have done it on our own. There is a terrible amount of jealousy towards Manchester United. I do not know why. Four titles in five years, perhaps, might have something to do with it."

Robson needs Middlesbrough win

BY DAVID MADDOCK

AT LEAST Bryan Robson's dry sense of irony has not deserted him. Reflecting on Middlesbrough's increasingly anxious attempt to avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership, he smiled sweetly yesterday and offered a surprising analysis. "It is the most exciting period in our history," he said.

Perhaps soldiers in the trenches offered similar thoughts. for the Middlesbrough manager could be forgiven if he were flattered from a touch of shell shock after the events of recent weeks. Monday's tense 3-3 draw at Old Trafford was

certainly thrilling, but surely not for those involved. The excitement continues tonight at Leeds United on Sunday, knowing that, for them to escape relegation, results involving Coventry City and Sunderland must go their way. At least the North East club received some good news yesterday, when Fabrizio Ravanelli suggested he could be fit to play at Elland Road.

Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, football's world governing body, repeated his criticisms yesterday of the size of the Premiership, which has 20 clubs, and the Premier Liga in Spain, which has 22. "They are both far too

big," he said. "It would be much more sensible to have only 16 teams."

Uefa, the European governing body, has argued for an 18-team Premiership, a case that was given unexpected support yesterday in a report by Deloitte and Touche, the management consultancy firm. Presenting the case for a radical restructuring of the Football League, the report says it should comprise 96 clubs "including all from the Vauxhall Conference and, ultimately, two from the Premiership", leaving 18 in the top flight, 24 in the first division, 24 in the second and 24 in each of two regionalised third divisions, north and south.

Lawrence bounces back from brink

James Allen on the return of the bowler
who won the battle of wounded knee

ends and a lengthening of his run-up to something like the rumble of old brought swift reward for a courageous decision to give first-class cricket another go at the age of 33. It was with unbridled joy that Lawrence and his team-mates greeted Hanacek's outstanding catch at fine leg from Laney's top-edged hook. His bouncer is in good working order.

"It was a relief more than anything," Lawrence said. "People had written me off, perhaps understandably, because it was an horrific injury, but it just shows what you can do with will-power and determination. It was a big day for me and it has been a long time coming. I've just worked hard at getting my fitness back, but I've only really dreamt about this."

Lawrence's comeback had its genesis in a couple of games at the end of last summer, after several months in which the knee had given him difficulty. A succession of minor muscular problems as the new season unfolded kept him waiting to pull on a Gloucestershire sweater in a competitive match for the first time in six years. Even yesterday, his appearance was in doubt until an hour before the start. "I've had no treatment on the knee for nine months," he said, "but, as for the rest of my body..."

A hinged support now covers the knee and the heavy scars bear witness to the trauma of the last of his five appearances for England. In a premature attempt at a comeback the summer after his

injury, the patella cracked again. His return has taken everybody by surprise, not least those close to him. "Who would have believed it?" Jack Russell said. "When I heard that he was thinking about a comeback, I didn't think it was possible."

It was Russell who was keeping wicket on that fateful day in Wellington, as he was yesterday. "He bowled some lively balls on a wicket which did not really suit him," Russell said. "Give him a wicket that is hard and fast and he will be back to his old pace, no doubt about it. It was virtually like the Syd of old."

Lawrence, who had acquired a wine bar in Bristol during his absence from the game, has set himself a target of ten matches and 50 wickets for the season. "I have got to be sensible," he said. "I don't want to let anybody down."

BRYANT'S EYE 46

Why Tony Banks
is Britain's man
for all seasons

Liverpool put
Ince at top
of wanted list

BY DAVID MADDOCK

WHILE Manchester United launched into a familiar celebration on Tuesday evening, Liverpool were left, once more, to endure the lonely route of recrimination. Their failure to secure the FA Carling Premiership has initiated a swift and decisive response as Roy Evans, the manager, turns his mind to next season.

In the wake of Tuesday's disappointment, when Liverpool lost 2-1 at Wimbeldon and thus conceded the title to United, Evans's first act has been to dispatch a representative to Milan in an attempt to secure the signing of Paul Ince. An initial offer was made for the Internazionale and England midfield man two weeks ago that promised to make him the highest-paid player at Anfield. However, Liverpool will not have it all their own way, for Chelsea have also approached Ince, who must now weigh up the respective offers.

He is certain to leave Inter after securing an agreement that his transfer will proceed at a reduced fee. Ince suggested to his Italian club that, if he was priced out of a move back to England, he would remain in Italy for the final year of his contract and then return on a free transfer. The threat has succeeded.

Significantly, the Liverpool manager has said that the players' age presented no problem. "Spending money on a 29-year-old is probably money that you will not get back, but then, under Bosman, it is unlikely that you would get money for any player in the future," Evans said. "He hopes to hurry through a deal next week, but Ince may wait until after the FA Cup Final to see if Chelsea, who meet Middlesbrough at Wembley, qualify for Europe."

Ince will not be the only target for Liverpool. After an ultimately depressing season, Evans has taken the decision to make fundamental changes at the club. John Barnes could move to a coaching role, with several other players — including Stan Collymore, Phil Babb, Neil Ruddock, Mark Kennedy, Rob Jones and even Patrik Berger — all likely to leave.

That would clear the ground for other signings. Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, confirmed yesterday that Oyvind Leonhardson

will be sold in the summer for a fee of £4.5 million. Evans had talks with the Norway international two weeks ago and is likely to conclude a deal after the season is completed. The Liverpool manager may also enjoy success if he pursues interests in Sol Campbell, Jari Litmanen, the Ajax and Finland forward.

England may lose the services of Robbie Fowler, Darren Anderton and Ian Walker for the summer.

Fowler, the Liverpool forward, is to undergo an operation on his adenoids and may miss the summer tournament.

Anderton and Walker, of Tottenham, are definite non-starters for all England's close-season games — both have been told to rest for six weeks in an effort to clear long-standing injuries.

Ian Wright, the Arsenal

MORSE

Computers
are human
too.

Sometimes they let you down.

With this in mind, companies like Hewlett-Packard, EMC and MorseData are building enterprise-wide solutions that can ensure your computer systems are resilient to failure. So if a chip fries, a disk breaks or your computer suffers a sudden loss of memory, business is not interrupted.

Call for a copy of our intelligent storage executive briefing and let us help you plan for a breakdown.

Don't have one yourself.

MorseData

0800 22 88 88

Photograph, page 45

Match reports, pages 44-45

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling Economy Class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of destinations throughout the UK as well as Europe and has now added daily flights from Heathrow to Copenhagen, Oslo and Gothenburg. With over 1,500 flights a week to 18 European destinations British Midland is the airline for Europe.

All rights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and addresses will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 1087

ACROSS: 1 Arch 3 Frantic 8 Corsage 9 Grunt 10 Visor
11 In touch 13 Langouste 17 Assange 19 Abhor 20 Tiger
22 Effects 23 Empower 24 Play
DOWN: 1 Above 2 Chrysalis 3 Flea in one's ear 4 Angst
5 Tau 6 Catchy 7 Marion 12 Unethical 14 Staffs
15 Sante 16 Frisky 18 Arrow 21 Gap

JYPY1015D